Senate votes 11-10 to reject ₱3-B bank evidence

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2001 ★★ 38 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 40 ₱15

Peso crashes to new low of 52.95 to dollar

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE PESO yesterday crashed to a new low of 52.95 to the dollar amid growing fears the Senate court would hand down an unpopular verdict in President Estrada's impeachment trial.

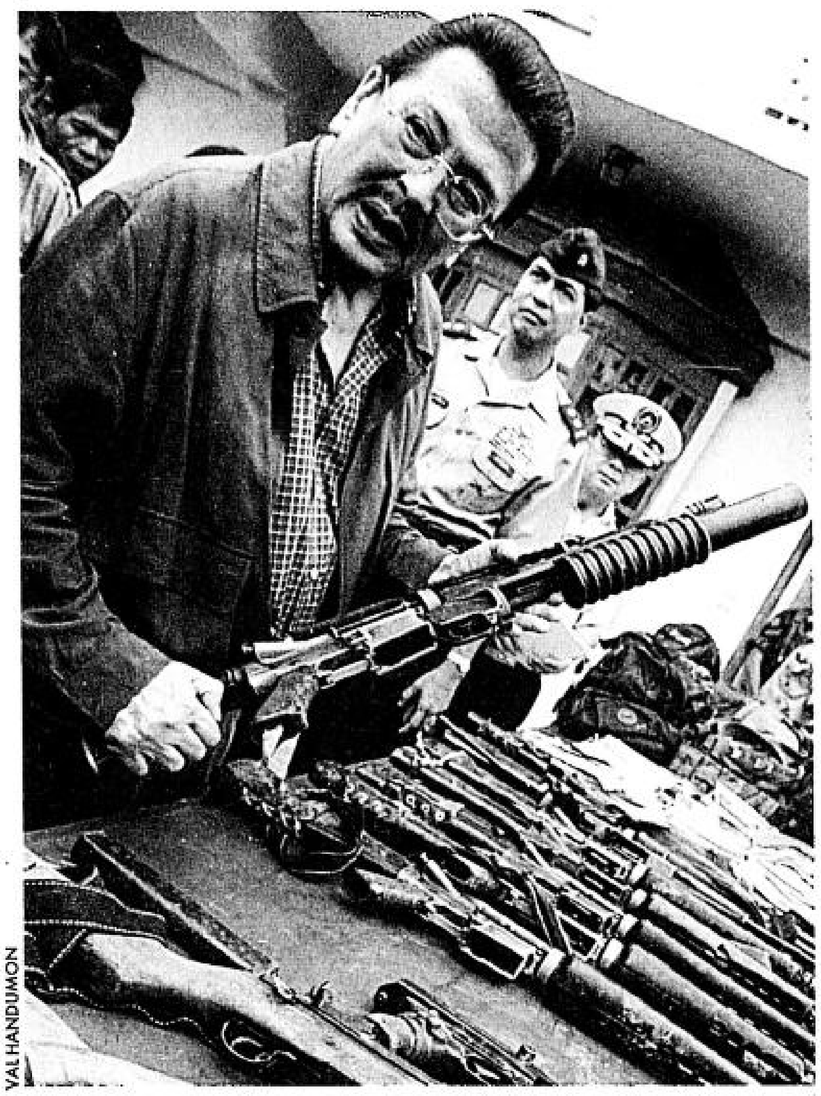
The local currency closed at 52.78 against the dollar, but dealers said they expected the peso to breach 53 today if the Bangko Sentral

PESO/ A4

HOW THEY VOTED

	YES		NO
1.	Pimentel	1.	Sotto
2.	Flavier	2.	Santiago
3.	S. Osmeña	3.	J. Osmeña
4.	Magsaysay	4.	Revilla
5.	Leviste	5.	Honasan
6.	Guingona	6.	Tatad
7.	Roco	7.	Coseteng
8.	Drilon	8.	Ople
9.	Cayetano	9.	Jaworski
10.	Biazon	10.	Oreta
		11.	Enrile

People power launched



VAL HANDUMON

PRESIDENT Estrada holds an M-16 rifle-grenade launcher seized by Army troopers from a communist rebel killed in a recent encounter in Tarlac.

HOUSE Prosecutor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. embraces Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. after he announced he was stepping down from the top Senate post following the close vote that rejected a key prosecution evidence. Surrounding them are Senators Drilon, Magsaysay, Cayetano and Roco. JESS YUSON

Senate votes to reject ₱3-B bank evidence

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE SENATE impeachment court last night voted 11-10 against the opening of sealed documents that House prosecutors said would prove that President Estrada had amassed P3.3 billion in a secret account with Equitable PCI Bank.

After casting a "yes" vote, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. announced his resignation from the top Senate post.

Nine other senators, who voted to open the envelope, broke into tears and hugged each other.

Private lawyers assisting the 11-member House prosecution panel walked out after Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., the presiding officer of the impeachment trial, declared that the nays had it.

"A day of infamy," Sen. Renato Cayetano said.

"This is a shameless vote of acquittal," said Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, one of the 11 House prosecutors.

The senators who voted against the opening of the sealed envelope were Majority Leader Francisco "Kit" Tatad, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, John Osmeña, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Anna Dominique Coseteng, Blas Ople, Robert Jaworski, Vicente Sotto III and Ramon Revilla.

They agreed with the contention of the President's defense lawyers

SENATE/ A16

Estrada: 'They are all liars'

BY DONNA S. CUETO AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Estrada yesterday traveled to Cory country, saying he was certain of acquittal and assailing the "liars" at his impeachment trial.

In Concepcion, Tarlac, speaking before some 5,000 people at the Benigno Aquino National High School, the President lashed out at the prosecution, saying it was "successful in hiring professional liars."

"They are all together, all liars. They have been lying with a straight face," he said in Filipino.

He added that the prosecution was "good at manufacturing testi-

ESTRADA/ A4

Sin, Aquino lead thousands at Edsa; noise barrages erupt

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and former President Corazon Aquino last night called for people power after the Senate voted against opening the envelope containing documents on the P3.3-billion bank account of President Estrada.

Sin, Aquino and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo joined thousands at the Edsa Shrine shortly before midnight. They were also joined by Senators Franklin Drilon and Teofisto Guingona.

The President was "in effect" acquitted when 11 senator-judges quashed a move to open the envelope, the prosecution said.

The 11 prosecutors in the impeachment trial of the President have decided to resign en masse following the major setback.

"We are going to the House (of Representatives) tomorrow to resign, all of us," said Rep. Feliciano Belmonte, head of the House prosecution panel.

Cars stopped along the stretch of the major highway from SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. Motorists blinked their lights and honked their horns.

The protesters on the highway were waving towels and hankies while others were lighting candles on the steps of the Edsa Shrine.

It was not immediately clear what the resignation of the prosecutors would mean as the Philippines has no impeachment precedent.

Belmonte said it was possible the Lower House would appoint a new team of prosecutors to handle the case against Mr. Estrada, who is on trial before the Senate court on corruption and bribery charges.

Noise barrages broke out in parts of Metro Manila as well as other major cities of the country. Motorists honked their horns while residents banged pots in Quezon City and Makati City. Cell phones flashed with text messages urging people to join the noise barrage.

Protesters lighted candles in front of the house of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago in UP Village, Quezon City, as cars passed by with their stereos on full blast playing anti-Estrada jingles.

Cause-oriented groups also held indignation rallies in the cities of

PEOPLE/ A15

Split decision portent of things to come

BY RAUL J. PALABRICA

ANALYSIS

THE QUESTION of whether or not the second set of documents earlier submitted by Equitable PCI Bank should be opened relates to the materiality or relevancy of evidence. It is an issue that Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. had the authority to rule upon at the outset.

But because Sen. Francisco Tatad moved for an open voting on the issue and his motion was seconded by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Davide was forced to forgo the exercise of that authority. And by a vote of 11 to 10, the impeachment court prohibited the opening of the mysterious second envelope of bank documents.

It was the first time in the 23 trial days that a member of the court made a pre-emptive move that tied the hands of the presiding officer on a subject matter that was clearly within his area of competence and expertise. In matters of similar nature in the past, the senators deferred to Davide and generally accepted his rulings without much debate.

Why that procedure, which has proven to be effective in maintaining orderly proceedings in

SPLIT/ A16

Suppression sparks outrage

Massive demonstrations planned nationwide

MILITANT groups said they would take to the streets today to oust President Estrada, saying the integrity of the impeachment trial was beyond redemption in the wake of the Senate vote that rejected potentially damaging evidence against the President.

"We will not accept the acquittal of President Estrada. He is a criminal. The people will reclaim the power from him," said Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

"It's over," Private Prosecutor Romeo Capulong said in disgust.

"This is already *moro-moro*. Why dignify these proceedings when the senator-judges voted along party lines?" Capulong said.

"What they (the senators who voted 'no') did was a grave injustice. We are now more convinced that they want to hide the truth," said Guillermo Luz, executive director of the influential Makati Business Club.

Luz said leaders of business groups, including provincial organizations, would be meeting today to assess the situation and possibly come out with a strong statement.

He said the proceedings at the impeachment court yesterday confirmed suspicions that Jose Velarde was President Estrada and that the only thing to be determined was how much that account held.

"I think this was all inside the envelope which they vigorously blocked," Luz said.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair

SUPPRESSION/ A16

Bishops say evidence compelling

A CATHOLIC Church leader yesterday said there was strong evidence President Estrada betrayed public trust and senator-judges who vote for his acquittal at his corruption trial would be committing an "immoral" act.

Bishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, warned the senators sitting as judges in the impeachment trial of Mr. Estrada that "if they do not follow their right conscience, disregard the evidence but vote according to political allegiances, they would be committing an immoral act."

The Senate court is expected to hand down its verdict by Feb. 12, but a growing number expect an acquittal.

In a statement, Quevedo said that "evidence against President Estrada is compelling" as he cited testimony showing a "pattern of presidential intervention" to help his businessman-friend Dante Tan who was implicated in the country's biggest stock manipulation scandal.

Former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. and two former Philippine Stock Exchange officials earlier testified that the President had pressured them into clearing Tan, majority owner of BW Resources Corp.

Quevedo also praised another witness, Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo, whose testimony also linked Mr. Estrada to alleged secret bank accounts.

He said "she acted morally," and urged

BISHOPS/ A15

OK SIYA TALAGA! DAVIDE FOR PRESIDENT NA!

Senator-judges agree on one thing: Davide

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

PERHAPS for the only time in the impeachment trial, senator-judges agreed on one thing—that the INQUIRER could not have picked a more deserving person than Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. as the Filipino of the Year.

Senator-Judge Raul Roco

SENATOR-JUDGES/ A4

KASINUNGALINGAN!

Dante Tan made ₱2.7B from BW, paper shows

By Rocky Nazareno and Agnes E. Donato

CONTRARY to what President Estrada had told former Securities and Exchange Commission chair Perfecto Yasay when he allegedly attempted to intervene in the BW Resources scandal, Dante Tan posted a net gain of more than P2.7 billion when he sold 537 million BW shares in over-the-counter transactions alone at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In documents obtained by the INQUIRER, it was shown that Mark Jimenez and Lucio Co, who are known friends of President Estrada, were among those who profited from the BW Resources stock manipulation scam.

The consolidated statement for capital gains tax of BW Resources for the year of 1999 showed that Tan bought 537,188,595 shares at a cost of P13,261,627,921.07 and was able to sell these at P16,056,773,593.50.

These sales yielded a net gain of P2,795,145,672.43.

Arraignment

Tan and his two associates pleaded not guilty before a Pasig court yesterday, after defense lawyers failed to stop the arraignment of criminal charges against them.

Defense lawyers earlier asked Judge Briccio Ygana of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 153 to allow them to file a petition for review at the Department of Justice and to defer the arraignment.

But the judge ruled that the arraignment should push through, maintaining that a deferment would go against the rules of criminal procedure which mandated that the court conduct arraignment and pre-trial hearings within 30 days after the resolution of the preliminary investigation.

Yasay had earlier testified in the impeachment trial that Mr. Estrada had asked him to clear Tan and BW Resources in the stock market manipulation scam.

Yasay said the President claimed that Tan was more of a victim than the perpetrator of the scam.

"Dante Tan even lost P2 billion in that scam," Yasay quoted Mr. Estrada as telling him.

In the same BW Resources consolidated statement for capital gains tax, it was also shown that Tan was the biggest gainer among the 53 parties listed as having owned BW Resources stocks.

Duty-free magnate Lucio Co was among the other big earners and netted P206,745,125 out of the sale of 55,561,700 stocks which he was able to sell at a premium of P1.732 billion after buying it at P1.525 billion.

1.5 million shares

Jimenez held 1.5 million shares and earned P2.988 million.

Jerry Ocier, who together with Jimenez and Wilson Sy were the ones identified by the President as the ones who caused the collapse of the BW Resources stocks, owned 5 million shares and earned P96.982 million.

Sy was not among those in the list although there were three other Sys, namely Carlos, Esther and Francis.

Next to Tan, former BW Resources president Eduardo Lim Jr. had a net gain of P683.599 million after he sold P26.305 million worth of BW shares.

Another big winner was Edgar Francisco who owned 40.304 million shares and gained P586.423 million.

Avoid pitfalls of modern populism, media urged

By Isagani Yambot
Publisher

TOKYO—Former US Secretary of State Alexander Haig said on Monday night that it is the moral and professional obligation of the media to avoid contributing to the pitfalls of modern populism.

Addressing the 18th world Media Conference here, Haig also said that the media have the obligation "to remain practitioners of the time-tested values and principles which have evolved over centuries of human experience."

Haig, one of the founding directors of America Online, said that because of the impact of the electronic media, "there has been a burst of modern political populism."

And modern populism, he said, has produced a new kind of political leader who every morning asks himself: "What is going to make me popular today?"

He said excessive pandering to public opinion tends to develop both major policy inconsistencies and irrationality.

Haig recalled the suggestion of the British political philosopher Edmund Burke that "successful political leaders should pursue the dictates of their conscience and their own basic principles honed by a lifetime of experience and the acceptance of universal human values."

"As they shape public opinion in pursuit of sound policies the media and public officials alike must be guided by principles and values rather than the quest for popularity, profit or both," he said.

He urged the media to subject itself to introspection—not to government supervision.

"This introspection is especially needed at a time in history when instantaneous, real-time communication is impacting dramatically on our lives and on the reporting and production of news," he said.

Haig said the explosion of information science is modifying the political, economic and security affairs of the global family of nations.

He noted that the media's focus on information sciences, such as the Internet, is eroding isolation. "No longer can political isolation or geographic divisions serve to keep reality at bay," he said.

MORE LIES

I'm not leaving RP, says Erap

By Armand N. Nocum and Agnes Donato

PRESIDENT Estrada yesterday debunked a claim that he was set to follow his mistresses abroad to live in "comfortable retirement."

Mr. Estrada was reacting to a news report quoting Joey Rufino, executive director of the opposition Lakas-NUCD party, as saying that the besieged President was preparing to leave the country.

"The exodus of his mistresses and friends is a sign that Mr. Estrada is now preparing for an exit scenario," Rufino said. Rufino issued the statement in the wake of reports that two of Mr. Estrada's mistresses, including Laarni Enriquez who left for the US last week, had left the country, along with known friends of the President William Gatchalian and George Go.

In an ambush interview, the President said the Rufino's claim was a figment of the opposition's imagination.

Freedom to imagine

"What they are saying are all lies. You know, if there is freedom of expression, there is also a freedom to imagine," the President, who was visiting Concepcion, Tarlac, said.

Meanwhile, the President's spokesperson Ernesto Maceda yesterday said yesterday Enriquez left the country to seek medical treatment for a possible breast tumor.

"There is a big lump in her breast that needs to be examined," Maceda said over radio dzBB.

Maceda said Enriquez would be undergoing examination and possible treatment at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

But he gave assurance that Enriquez would return to the country if the lump did not turn out to be a tumor.

"If, for example, there will be findings that the lump is just normal and it is not cancerous or something like that, then she will immediately return back home," he said.

Maceda said Enriquez had been suffering pains in her breast. He also moved to scotch speculations that Enriquez left for abroad to evade testifying in the impeachment trial.

"These are all psy-war, psy-war. It is not right to say that she should not leave even if she suspects that she may have a cancer of the breast," he said.

Guia staying

In related news, a friend of Guia Gomez, another mistress of President Estrada, told the INQUIRER yesterday that unlike the other girls, Gomez would not leave the country.

Nanette Manda, a member of Mr. Estrada's staff when he was still a senator, claimed that Gomez had in fact postponed her United States trip for a checkup of her spinal column when the "Juetengate" scandal broke out.

Angara says he'll help in transition

By Christine Avendaño

EXECUTIVE Secretary Edgardo Angara said yesterday that he accepted his new job because he wants to help in the "transition" after the impeachment court decides the fate of President Estrada next month.

Whatever the verdict is, Angara appealed to the opposition to help in the "healing" of the country and in the rebuilding of the economy.

Angara said the "primary consideration" for his agreeing to become the executive secretary was not only because the President sought his help, but because he wanted to help the country.

"Whatever's the verdict—whether not guilty or guilty—I can, I will be in position to help in the transition," Angara told the weekly Bulong Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel in Pasay City.

He acknowledged though that should the President be acquitted by the impeachment court, his job would be "even more difficult."

But he expressed his belief that he could do something about "binding the wounds that have been inflicted as a result of this process and start the healing process in the country."

This would be nothing new as Angara reminded that when he was the Senate President and leader of the opposition under the administration of President Ramos, the opposition "extended the hand of cooperation" to the government which was then facing the problem of power outages.

Angara said he was appealing to the opposition to "come together and start the rebuilding of our economy and rehabilitation of the relations among our people," whatever the verdict of the impeachment court would be.

Miriam TRO lifting sought

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE MILITANT group Akbayan yesterday asked the Supreme Court to lift the temporary retraining order it issued to barring militant and other cause-oriented groups from staging protest actions at the house and office of Senator-Judge Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Akbayan also asked the high court to dismiss the petition filed by Santiago and to recall its order remanding the petition to the Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

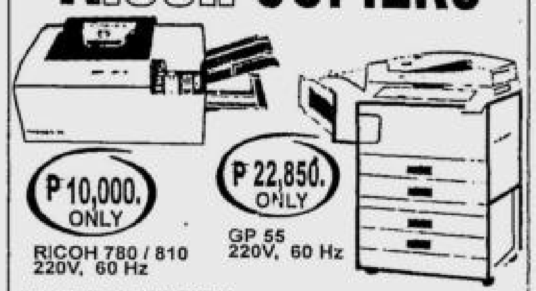
In a 13-page motion for reconsideration, Akbayan Secretary General Carmel Abao claimed that under the Constitution, the SC had no jurisdiction to act on Santiago's petition for injunction on protect actions.

ADD Professional
IT SPECIALISTS, ENGINEERS, MEDICAL/TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES, MANAGERS, CAREGIVERS and other professional and skilled individuals...
LIVE AND WORK IN CANADA!
The ADD Professional Consultants Challenge:
✓We are the recognized leader in International Immigration Services.
✓ Rely on our honest and dependable service, full disclosure on fees, no hidden cost!
✓ High success rate of interview non-appearance.
✓ We offer settlement advice and assistance in obtaining employment through our established partnership with human resources agencies in Canada.
✓ We are the only consultancy with a MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!
Come and see the difference!
Call us and register! Seminars are held on Saturdays from 9-11am Seminar fee is P500, (inclusive of hand-outs, refreshments and assessment)
Bring your resume on seminar date for a free consultation
ADD Professional Consultants, Inc.
6th Floor Pilar Building, # 148 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. 867 3252 / 894 3486 Fax 818 1055
E-mail: addpro@pacific.net.ph Website: www.addcareers.com
We are an international immigration services company. We are not a job placement agency.

... travelling in appreciation of GOD's beautiful & bountiful creation
8 Days ROME & ASSISI US$ 1,525
Highlights: Monumental, Ancient & Christian Rome with Vatican Museum and Assisi Tour Extensions: 3 nts. PARIS - US$ 274.00 / 2 nts. LOURDES - US$ 370.00
12 Days EGYPT, HOLYLAND, JORDAN + DUBAI US$ 1,480
24 Feb - 07 Mar Highlights: Pyramids, Sphinx, St. Catherine, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Tiberias, Petra, Amman & Dubai with daily breakfast & dinner
PIRKKO & TROYTOURS, INC. LG17 Cityland Pasong Tamo, Makati City Tel: 752-1762 • 752-5165 Fax: 752-5161 E-mail: troytour@info.com.ph

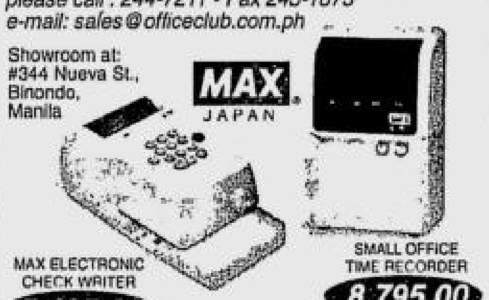
A FUTURE SO PURE
Never again shall we endure unclean water...
AquaSoft PURIFIED DRINKING WATER
water at its purest...
Available at all AquaSoft outlet nationwide

PROMOTION 2001
WE SUPPLY ALL KINDS OF BAGS TO SUIT YOUR REQUIREMENTS
• LUGGAGE • ATTACHE CASE • SCHOOL BAG • CONVENTION BAG • SPORTS BAG • BACK PACK • PORTFOLIO • See also our well crafted ORGANIZERS • WALLETS • PURSE
GUARANTEED GOOD QUALITY AT COMPETITIVE PRICES!
WE CAN PUT YOUR PRIVATE LOGO OR COMPANY NAME ON ANY OF OUR PRODUCTS
CALL US NOW FOR DETAILS:
KIDDOS MARKETING
Tels. 252-0641 • 252-0639
252-0136 • 252-9947
252-9948 • 252-1034
FAX (632) 252-0636
WE ACCEPT SPECIAL ORDERS


BESTSELLING RICOH COPIERS
₱10,000. ONLY
RICOH 780 / 810 220V, 60 Hz
₱22,850. ONLY
GP 55 220V, 60 Hz
*LIMITED OFFER ONLY
NOW AVAILABLE KATUN COMPATIBLE TONERS & PARTS FOR USE IN Canon, Sharp, Toshiba, Mita, Etc. 100% GUARANTEED
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc Manila
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 • 781-3472 • 749-8216
Prov'l Dealers: Cabanatuan 463-3415 • Cebu 253-7407 • Baliuag (0919)837-1080 • Tarlac (0919)842-5559
E-mail: copytrade.com@pacific.net.ph

HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
CP 1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP 2 On Grammar & Conversational English
CP 3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP 1 On Business & Technical Writing
Private Tutoring and Corporate Training are Available
MAKATI - 845-0886 / 753-1048 to 49
ALABANG - 850-4756 / 850-4757
QUEZON CITY - 372-4914 / 372-4915

Order on-line!
www.officeclub.com.ph
Hundreds of office products and supplies on our website. Those without Internet please call: 244-7211.
IMPORTED solid construction with lock & key
Free delivery within Metro Manila No Minimum Order* COD order accepted
STEEL FILING 4-DRAWER
P 4,550.00
STEEL STORAGE CABINET
P 4,995.00
OFFICE CLUB.com
The New Way to e-Commerce.
Call Center 244-7211 Fax 243-1875
e-mail sales@officeclub.com.ph
Showroom at: #344 Nueva St., Binondo, Manila


Order on-line!
www.officeclub.com.ph
Visit our website, check out from hundreds of office products and supplies. Those without Internet please call : 244-7211 • Fax 243-1875
e-mail: sales@officeclub.com.ph
Showroom at: #344 Nueva St., Binondo, Manila
MAX JAPAN
MAX ELECTRONIC CHECK WRITER 5,495.00
SMALL OFFICE TIME RECORDER 8,795.00
Free delivery within Metro Manila No Minimum Order.* COD order accepted.
* A P 20.00 handling fee will be charged for orders worth P 100.00 & below

DIABETIC?
WHY GO through BITTER ORDEAL of DRINKING AMPALAYA
Bittertaste? Boiling? Inconvenience of drinking?
NOW YOU can have CONVENIENT AMPALAYA or M. CHARANTIA CAPSULE
With other potent vegetable herbs.
ABS BITTER HERBS
BFAD FR-24465
P8.00/cap
TESTIMONIAL:
My son MIKKO AMARILLO 10 yrs. old is a juvenile Diabetic (insulin dependent) since he was 6 yrs. old With continous taking of 3 capsules per day after meal of ABS Bitter Herbs for a month his insulin injection before bedtime decreased gradually from 57 units to 36 units. ABS Bitter Herbs is an effective compliment to my son's medication.
MA. TERESA AMARILLO, Diliman, Quezon City
Product of ABS • GEN International
AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AT SELECTED
mercury drug • Watsons • For Deliveries call: 781-11-11
GNC Live Well • New South Star Drug • SM Family Drug
ACCEPTING PROVINCIAL DEALERS
INQUIRIES: 435-00-86 • 928-30-57 • 435-88-17

Ipagmalaki at tangkilikin. Sariling atin! Sa kulay, sa puso at sa diwa, PINOY TALAGA!
I'm taking ABS Bitter Herbs as my vegetables supplements, it works and it's good for me
Watch!
DOROTHY JOY DELASIN
FILIPINO WORLD GOLF CHAMPION
20 YRS. OLD FIL-AM - PSA ATHLETE OF THE YEAR 2000
US LPGA EAGLE CLASSIC-1ST TIME YOUNGEST WINNER SINCE 1975
ROLEX ROOKIE OF THE YEAR 2000 - 1999 US WOMEN'S AMATEUR CHAMPION
1998 JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPION
US JUNIOR GIRLS & CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CHAMPION
Born and raised in an ordinary Filipino home in the US. Despite the amateur pedigree. Delasin came on tour with little press, no sponsors, no endorsements. She wears no corporate logos and still plays and practices at Lincoln Park, a municipal course. PINOY BY HEART, HUMBLE, DETERMINE TO EXCEL. Her proverb "A flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all."
Our Pinoy Food Supplement CHAMPION
Momordica CHARANTIA • AMPALAYA CAPSULE
WITH OTHER POTENT VEGETABLE HERBS.
- DOROTHY'S MOTORCADE FROM HOTEL REMBRANDT TO QC CIRCLE BOUND TO QC HALL JAN. 18 10:00 AM
DOROTHY DELASIN "ABS-FOR-A-CAUSE" where Delasin Family will donate to 5 organizations and foundations
AMPALAYA BITTER MELON FOOD SUPPLEMENT FOR Diabetic People.

Senate or int'l tribunal? Decide now, Miriam told

By TJ Burgonio

IS it the Senate or the international tribunal? Make up your mind.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is asking Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago if she's still interested in running for election as a judge in the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja yesterday said that Santiago had to make a decision now because the election might be held earlier than its original schedule of May, noting that they have yet to receive a confirmation from her.

"The question now is if she's still interested to run. We need to know as soon as possible because the elections may be held sooner than expected. It's expected in May. But according to information, it might be held earlier," he told reporters.

Fourteen seats of judges are up for grabs in the International Tribunal, which was created to prosecute those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia and genocide in Rwanda.

Last year, the DFA nominated Santiago to the crime tribunal after she wrote a letter to the agency expressing her desire to join it.

Baja said that they have asked the Philippine embassies abroad to support her nomination.

Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon had said that Santiago was qualified, being a lawyer and former trial court judge of Quezon City.

The job requires experience in criminal law, international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law.

The UN General Assembly will elect 14 permanent ad litem (for the suit or action) judges from a list of nominees submitted by member and non-member states. The judges will serve a term of four years.

Corporate Gifts
ACCEPT OUT METRO ORDERS
Wallclocks 14" P200/pc.
50 pcs minimum
ALARM Clock
PERSONALIZED
☎ 8246656
8214102
P90 Only

KENSTAR Travel Corporation
ISO 9002 Certified Travel Management Company
DOT ACCREDITED
TO- 173-99 TA-312-90
PTAA/PIATA
MANILA OFFICE: 5241211 to 16
MAKATI OFFICE: 815-3179/82/ 83
www.kenstartravel.com
info@kenstartravel.com

JANUARY SPECIALS

AUSTRALIA Sydney/Melbourne/Brisbane Adelaide or Gold Coast !
only $599
(Single City valid fr Feb 1 - Mar31 only)
RT Airfare via QANTAS; 4D3N Accom.at 4star Hotel; RT Transfers; Daily Bkfast;PLUS 1 Bonus Tour/Meal!

HONGKONG from $337
RT Airfare via PAL; RT Transfers; 4D3N Accom.; Daily Breakfast; City Tour; Shenzhen; Plus Many More !

BANGKOK NEW! $298
RT Airfare via PAL; RT Transfers; 4D3N Accom.; Daily Breakfast; PLUS!Choice of Tour w/ LUNCH !

SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA from $375
RT Airfare via PAL; RT Transfers 4D3N Hotel Accom., Daily Bfast Singapore City Tour; & Tour of Johore Bahru, Malaysia!

Take a Cruise !
$999 for 2!
Visit Singapore, Kuala Lumpur & Port Dickson,Malaysia !
3D2N aboard SuperStar Virgo
Full Board Meals
RT Airfare via Singapore Airlines
Call us & ask about the Special Valentine Offer for this Promo !

PRE DEVALUATION SALE
BP MONITORS
VISIT OUR WEBSITE @fareastmedical.net
NEBULIZERS
UNTIL JANUARY 30 ONLY
OXYLITE
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061
WHEELCHAIR
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800-40-93
GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN Shoppesville 721-34-87
CEBU 262-32-39

FUN BITES GALORE!!!
COMPLETE SUPPLIES & EQUIPTS FOR:
▲ FRUITTY MILKSHAKES & BLACK SAGO
● FROZEN FRENCH FRIES & FLAVORS
▲ NACHOS & ALL TOPPINGS
● KAELIN'S SQUID, FISH & SHRIMP BALLS; QUIKIAM & ORLIANS
▲ KAELIN'S SIOPAO & SIOMAI
● IMP. CRABSTICKS, BEEF & CHICKEN PATTIES, ETC.
FRIES 'R' US
Greenrock ENTERPRISES
QUEZON BLVD. COR. C. PALANCA ST., QUIAPO, MANILA 1001 MON.-SAT. 9AM - 7PM
☎ 734-9114 (W/ CALL WAITING)

Diamonds...
We are BUYING loose DIAMONDS and BIG DIAMOND JEWELERIES.
Any size!
Any quality!
Any quantity!
(Also old cut and yellow stones!)
From PAWNSHOP, FINANCERS and PRIVATES.
We pay only CASH, DOLLARS or Pesos.
(We are serving all provinces in the Philippines.)
Tel: 636-2815 • Pager: 1277-89270
We will help you to redeem your item
Special arrangement for regular suppliers

Kiss Your Bad Breath Goodbye
Now and Forever
A SURE CURE. Therabreath System™ effectively removes harmful bacteria that cause BAD BREATH, gum disease, tooth decay and plaque. Eliminates sour/bitter tastes, thick pasty saliva, phlegm in throat, destroys awful morning breath and food odor.
Gain Confidence. Improve your social life and say goodbye with trusted Therabreath System.™
Money Back Guarantee!!
To order, call: 890-8380, 895-5532, 895-6775, 897-2466, 896-2792, 895-7118
Web-site: http://www.norvillefreshbreath.com.ph
E-mail: epcfresh@compass.com.ph

"Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she (wisdom) is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold."
PROVERBS 3:13 -14
Across Tour Packages
TURKEY & GREECE TOUR 16 Days
ITALY & FRANCE TOUR 16 Days

TICKETS ONLY:

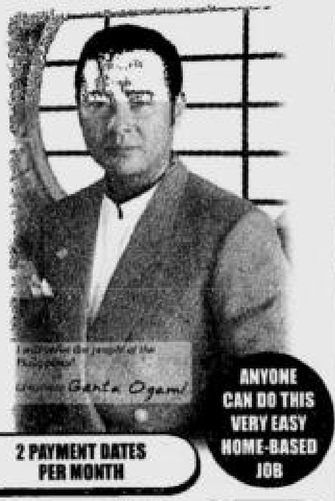
HONG KONG	$260.00
BANGKOK	$255.00
SINGAPORE	$305.00
SAIGON	$440.00
TOKYO	$400.00
LAX/SFO	$800.00
NYC/CHI	$850.00
EUROPE (KU)	$900.00
EUROPE (EK)	$950.00

ASIAN TOUR PACKAGES

HONG KONG	4DAYS/3NIGHTS	US$ 320.00
BANGKOK	4DAYS/3NIGHTS	US$ 280.00
SINGAPORE	4DAYS/3NIGHTS	US$ 375.00 (except Jan. 22 - 26)
SAIGON	3DAYS/2NIGHTS	US$ 516.00

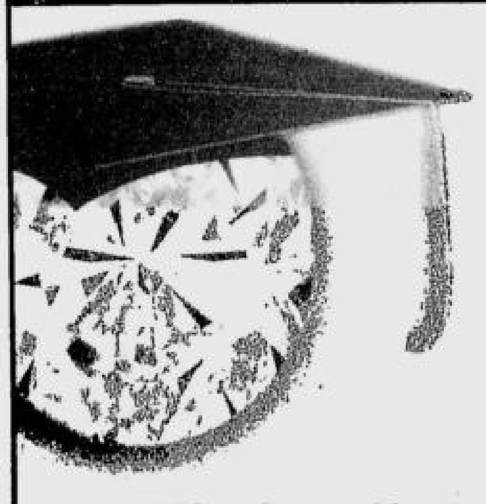
Diadem International Travel & Tours Incorporated
CALL: 525-7081, 536-4549, 536-4550, 522-7404
FAX: 523-7840 · E-MAIL: diadem@i-next.net
2002 Roxas Blvd. Cor. San Juan St., Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines

REDISCOVER : Home-Based Opportunities
Your New Work Style for a New Lifestyle!
FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION
Elderly Persons are also welcome
G. COSMOS PHILS., Inc. is exerting efforts everyday, advocating our basic principle, " While pursuing the physical and spiritual happiness of all employees, contributing to the development of mankind and society and attaining co-existence and co-prosperity." In this disordered society, the bureaucrats and some managers of enterprises form this 'society for themselves, just seeking their own profit. With this selfish way of thinking prevailing, what will become of the future of the Philippines? G. COSMOS PHIL., Inc. was established to help people who have such problems as , "I cannot find a place to work", "I'd like to work but I can't because I have some matters to look after", "I'd like to work after retirement." Our company was established for International contribution. We look forward to receiving your application with heartfelt expectation.
INCOME / EARNINGS : Average monthly earnings of Php 30,000 to Php 50,000. There will be two pay dates, 15 days apart.
REMITTANCE / WITHDRAWAL : On or around the 5th and 20th of each month.
WHO CAN JOIN : Male/ Female, 20 - 90 years old, can participate. (However, wealthy persons are requested to refrain from joining)
WHAT TO DO : While staying at home, working twice a month for about 30 minutes on each occasion, you only have to select a product from the catalog which will be sent to you. The selected product will be advertised in mail-order shopping programs on T.V. or in newspapers, magazines and internet.



2 PAYMENT DATES PER MONTH
ANYONE CAN DO THIS VERY EASY HOME-BASED JOB
PARTICIPATION THROUGH CREDIT IS POSSIBLE
* Limited slots available so join now!
You can reach us through telephone, mail or fax!
Please give us your Name, Address, Age, Telephone Number and your Telemarketer in-charge.
CODE: 03-01-4
We will be sending you free brochure, postage will not be charged to you.
G. COSMOS Phils., Inc.
16th Floor RICHVILLE CORPORATE TOWER, 1107 Industry St., Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
TEL. NOS.: 850-7973; 850-7958
FAX: 850-7993 TO 94

Precious stones need professional people...



Nibor
Get the Best Deal for your Diamonds
At Nibor diamond buying office, we value your trust.
We give free appraisals for your precious diamonds.
Compare prices and we will top any legitimate offer!
Internationally experienced Gemologist
✓ INSTANT CASH for diamond 3 carat & above
✓ REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES of out of town sellers if sale is consummated
ALL TRANSACTIONS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
Tel. # 726-47-49 · Cell. 0917-5362456
Monday-Saturday · 9am-5pm

Re-sculpt Your Figure Safely
Plasti-Dermi Treatment
-- The Non-Surgical Liposuction Technology from Marie-France
Plasti-Dermi Treatment (PDT) is Marie-France's "NON-SURGICAL LIPOSUCTION" method to remove excess fat without any risk or discomfort to your health or your body.
The PDT works by detaching trapped fat cells or cellulite within your body's tissues. It also improves blood circulation and lymphatic drainage within your cellulite-problem areas. It can even preserve your skin's elasticity to prevent it from sagging after weight-loss for an overall slimmer, smoother look. All these with no skin penetration, internal harm, and other problems that go with fat-reduction surgery.
Re-sculpt your body with Marie-France's real and painless alternative to liposuction. Try the Plasti-Dermi Treatment now!
Uncover Your Curves
Marie France Bodyline International®
NOW OPEN
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Consultations are done in private and kept confidential. All treatments are done in hygienic and private cubicles and handled professionally by trained nurses with the medical supervision of our doctors.
NEW LOCATION

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	BINONDO	ALABANG	SHAW	CEBU
816-2563	687-1216	410-3723	242-2187	809-9619	534-5898	233-7637
892-7631/32	687-1218	410-3724	242-2191	850-4574	534-5877	233-7639
812-0472 • 812-0510	638-3028	372-6635 • 372-6636	243-0047 • 243-0049	842-4633 • 842-6887	717-0071 • 717-0072	233-7641
Solid Mills Bldg., Dela Rosa St.	Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Avenue	Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmariñas St.	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Sunshine Square Plaza	Keppel Centre, Cebu City

e-mail add.: mfbi@i-manila.com.ph
NO EXERCISE MACHINES • NO WORKOUT CLASSES • NO PILLS OR INJECTIONS • NO HUNGER PAINS • NO MEDICATIONS • NO SURGERY

Peso falls to 52.95 to dollar

(From page A1)

ng Pilipinas did not intervene.

President Estrada played down the peso's fall, saying it was wrong for the opposition to blame him for the depreciation.

"I'm optimistic that when this is over, we'll be back to normal," he told newsmen in Tarlac, forecasting the peso would likely stabilize at 46 to 47 to the dollar after the trial.

Traders, however, found it difficult to share in the President's optimism.

"There are fears that, whether it is an acquittal or conviction, chaos will ensue. More so if there is an acquittal which many people believe will be the final verdict despite strong evidence presented by the prosecution," a treasury official of a local bank said.

Bids at the Philippine Dealing System reached as high as P53 to the dollar, but there were no takers. Trading volume rose to $158 million from $134 million on Monday when the peso finished at 52.40.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index also ended down 16.14 points, or one percent, at 1551.79, after rising 1.7 percent on Monday.

For his part, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the financial markets should stop prejudging the case and wait for the Senate verdict on Feb. 12.

"We're shooting ourselves in the foot," he said as he called on the public to be "a little bit sober and stop making wild statements."

But Buenaventura acknowledged there was "a bit of panic" in the market now.

"They (investors) don't want to bring in their dollars because of news that we'll have (another revolution)," he said.

Buenaventura said "it was foolish" for the BSP to intervene in a market ruled by sentiment.

Even so, he said the peso's fall had prompted the central bank to hold off plans to bring down interest rates further after lowering them five times in the last two months to encourage bank lending.

"Maybe it's better that we wait until the US (Federal Reserve) lowers their (rates) first," he said, adding that "maybe, when they lower it the next time, we will lower it too."

The United States last cut rates on Jan. 3.

A senior trader at a foreign bank said the peso's slide was brought about not only by political uncertainty arising from the impeachment trial but also by a government report that the national budget deficit last year had soared to a higher-than-expected P136.11 billion.

The government had targeted a 2000 budget deficit of only P62.5 billion but a shortfall in tax collections and lower privatization proceeds dampened its expectations.

Mindanao

Joji Ilagan-Bian, chair of the Mindanao Business Council (MBC), warned that the peso's sharp fall was only the "beginning of the worst to come."

"We are not confident the peso will be able to recover for as long as this political crisis remains unresolved," Bian said in Davao City.

She said there was still a month to go before the scheduled end of the Senate impeachment trial and the market was already reacting negatively to reports of a likely acquittal of Mr. Estrada.

She said that at least 350 small and medium enterprises in the Southern Mindanao had reportedly closed shop since last December.

Other small enterprises in the region had either reduced the number of their workforce or cut down on the work time of their employees to save on labor costs, she said.

Bian said other business leaders had reported a similar trend was happening in other areas in Mindanao.

"Unless political confidence is restored, which may happen only if the President resigns or a verdict of conviction is handed down, it's difficult for us to get back on our feet," she said.

But Ambassador Ernesto Maceda, the President's spokesperson in the impeachment trial, voiced suspicions that certain businessmen in the opposition, particularly members of the Makati Business Club, were part of "a master plan" to attack the banking system and destroy the economy.

"So the more the opposition tries to shake down the banks, (the more) I suspect that this is part of their master plan to destroy our banks and the economy so the President would find it hard to govern over the next three years," Maceda said.

He predicted that more than half of the membership of the Makati Business Club, which has been calling on the President to step down, would be trooping to Malacañang if he were acquitted.

"When they see the President acquitted, I bet you more than half of MBC members will be in Malacañang so fast . . . You know businessmen. Their bottom line is profit," Maceda said. ***With reports from Donna S. Cueto in Manila and Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

No recourse but to go to the streets–Joker

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

HOUSE Prosecutor Joker Arroyo was tight-lipped, his face livid with anger as he quietly picked up his things and made his way back to the prosecution office with fellow Prosecutor Wigberto Tañada.

"This is distasteful, shameless," Arroyo said.

"There may be no other recourse but to go to the streets," he added.

Arroyo said the situation was reminiscent of the months just before then strongman President Ferdinand Marcos was ousted from power.

"We've been there. We can go back to the streets again," he said.

Tañada, the prosecutor in charge of the fourth complaint of culpable violation of the Constitution, said it "was the saddest day of my life."

Rep. Oscar Moreno, who together with Arroyo pieced together the web of bank records that pinned the President on the Jose Velarde bank accounts, was speechless and almost in tears.

After getting over the initial shock, Moreno said the prosecution panel may yet file a motion for reconsideration but Arroyo said getting a reversal from "the obviously biased senator-judges would be next to impossible."

"That practically finished the impeachment case," said a dejected Rep. Sergio Apostol who handled Article 1 of the impeachment case on bribery.

Apostol said the 11-10 decision only showed "how immature our political system still is."

Sen. Robert Jaworski, who voted against opening the second envelope, was the first among the legislators to leave the session hall.

But just as he was trying to make a discreet exit, he confronted three crying ladies and blurted out in Filipino: "Are you trying to scare me? I know what I am doing."

Bayan secretary general Teddy Casiño announced that there would be an indignation/condemnation rally at the World Trade Center near the Senate building starting at 11 a.m. today to denounce the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the envelope.

He said "everyone that we can muster" will be there.

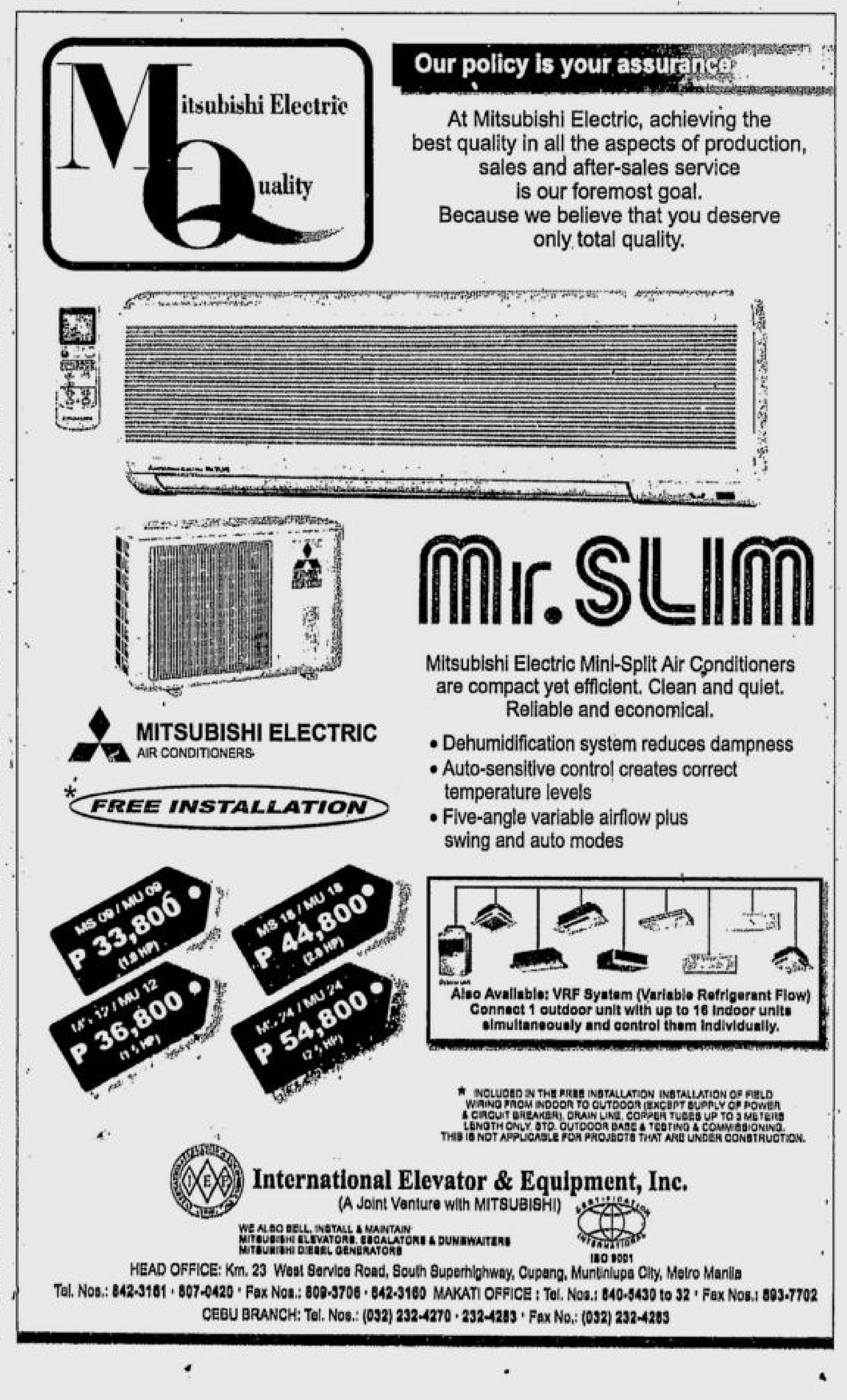
DLI GENERICS

QUALITY NA
MURA PA
SA BOTICA

Suggested Retail Price

	Price		Price
Ambroxol Capsule 75 mg	6.50	Diclofenac Sod. Film Coated Tablet 50 mg	4.70
Amoxicillin Capsule 250 mg	3.75	Glibenclamide Tablet 5 mg	2.00
Amoxicillin Capsule 500 mg	6.00	INH - Syrup 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00
Amoxicillin Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00	Isoniazid Tablet 300 mg	1.50
Ampicillin Capsule 500 mg	7.25	Loperamide HCl Capsule 2 mg	2.75
Ampicillin Powder for Injection 500 mg, vial	35.00	Mefenamic Acid Capsule 250 mg	2.50
Bromhexine HCl Syrup 4 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00	Mefenamic Acid Tablet 500 mg	3.00
Bromhexine HCl Tablet 8 mg	1.75	Multi-Vitamin Syrup 60 mL	56.00
Carbocisteine (SCMC) Capsule 500 mg	4.50	Multi-Vitamin Tablet	3.00
Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	49.00	Paracetamol Syrup 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	36.50
Cephalexin Capsule 500 mg	11.00	Paracetamol Tablet 500 mg	0.90
Chloramphenicol Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	63.00	Rifampicin Suspension 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	75.00
Combi Pack - INH-Rifam-PZA 300/450/500 mg	27.00/day	Rifampicin Capsule 450 mg	15.00
Combi Pack - INH-Rifam 300/450 mg	18.00/day	Salbutamol Syrup 2 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	42.00
Co-trimoxazole Suspension (TM-40 mg, SMZ-200 mg), 60 mL	56.00	Salbutamol Tablet 2 mg	1.75
Co-trimoxazole Tablet (TM-80 mg, SMZ-400 mg)	4.00	Vitamins B1 + B6 + B12 Tablet	3.50

Member: Generic Association of the Phil., Available nationwide (not yet available in Mercury Drug)
Address: 3rd Floor Lawyers Coop. Bldg., 459 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: 711-3933, 741-7763, 712-4990, 741-9203, 743-1620, 743-1626 FAX: 712-4921, 743-1633
E-Mail: pacific@DLI-Generics.com Complete FACTORY PRICES available at WEBSITE: www.DLI-Generics.com
DEALERS/DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME



Mitsubishi Electric Quality

Our policy is your assurance

At Mitsubishi Electric, achieving the best quality in all the aspects of production, sales and after-sales service is our foremost goal. Because we believe that you deserve only total quality.

Mr. SLIM

Mitsubishi Electric Mini-Split Air Conditioners are compact yet efficient. Clean and quiet. Reliable and economical.

- Dehumidification system reduces dampness
- Auto-sensitive control creates correct temperature levels
- Five-angle variable airflow plus swing and auto modes

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
AIR CONDITIONERS

*FREE INSTALLATION

MS 09 / MU 09 P 33,800 (1.0 HP)
MS 18 / MU 18 P 44,800 (2.0 HP)
MS 12 / MU 12 P 36,800 (1.5 HP)
MS 24 / MU 24 P 54,800 (2.5 HP)

Also Available: VRF System (Variable Refrigerant Flow)
Connect 1 outdoor unit with up to 16 indoor units simultaneously and control them individually.

* INCLUDED IN THE FREE INSTALLATION: INSTALLATION OF FIELD WIRING FROM INDOOR TO OUTDOOR (EXCEPT SUPPLY OF POWER & CIRCUIT BREAKER), DRAIN LINE, COPPER TUBES UP TO 3 METERS LENGTH ONLY, STD. OUTDOOR BASE & TESTING & COMMISSIONING. THIS IS NOT APPLICABLE FOR PROJECTS THAT ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

International Elevator & Equipment, Inc.
(A Joint Venture with MITSUBISHI)
WE ALSO SELL, INSTALL & MAINTAIN
MITSUBISHI ELEVATORS, ESCALATORS & DUMBWAITERS
MITSUBISHI DIESEL GENERATORS
ISO 9001
HEAD OFFICE: Km. 23 West Service Road, South Superhighway, Cupang, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: 842-3161 · 807-0420 · Fax Nos.: 809-3706 · 842-3160 MAKATI OFFICE : Tel. Nos.: 840-5430 to 32 · Fax Nos.: 893-7702
CEBU BRANCH: Tel. Nos.: (032) 232-4270 · 232-4283 · Fax No.: (032) 232-4283

Estrada: 'They are all liars'

(From page A1)

monies" for some of the witnesses, such as former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay and former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, whom he labeled as "professional liars."

The President reiterated that he would step down only in June 2004, and that he would "accept the verdict of the Senate impeachment court if it would be in accordance with the Constitution."

In an ambush interview, the President cautioned his critics against pursuing moves to "incite" a "revolution" to protest his possible acquittal.

He said he would apply the full force of the law on those fomenting such a move.

"If they will incite a revolution, I will put them all in their right place," he said, adding:

"Nobody is above the rule of law. There is no one higher than our Constitution. Even the President of the Philippines is under the law."

He said he would allow the holding of protest rallies. But he warned: "They can hold rallies, provided that these are held peacefully. We will allow that. But when the time comes, they should not go to the extent of threatening me because I am not one to be easily intimidated."

He raised basically the same points in his speech.

Welcomers

Among those who welcomed Mr. Estrada were Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapuz, Tarlac Gov. Jose "Apeng" Yap and Concepcion Mayor Alfredo Avena.

He was accompanied by Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno, Public Works Secretary Gregorio Vigilar, his spokesperson for the impeachment trial Ernesto Maceda, Presidential Assistant for Political Affairs Lito Banayo, the new chief of the Presidential Management Staff Macel Fernandez, and his son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

In his speech, the President aired another threat against rich businessmen whom he called *balasubas* (reneging on paying their debts).

He said he would expose the tax evaders and those with outstanding loans with government banks and financial institutions among those who were attacking him.

"All I can tell those elitists, the rich who want to grab power from the Office of the President, is this: What do you think you are—lucky?" he said.

According to Mr. Estrada, he knew that these people were trying to remove him from power because they were against him from the very start. He said it was also because he had directed government financial institutions and banks, such as the Philippine National Bank and the Landbank, to prioritize lending to small farmers and businessmen.

Richer

In his introduction of the President, Maceda said those criticizing Mr. Estrada only wanted to get richer.

He said they included the Makati Business Club, the rich, the Romulos and the Ayalas whose "only aim in life is to oust the President so they would get richer, and richer, and richer."

Maceda said he was sure that the President would be acquitted because of the weak case of the prosecution and because the prosecution lawyers were failures.

This was the "good news" Maceda presented to the people of Tarlac before he introduced the President as the "champion of the poor."

Maceda said that he had served under six Philippine presidents, starting with Carlos P. Garcia, and that it was only Mr. Estrada who had the "true heart" for the poor.

He said not even "Tita Cory," former President Corazon Aquino, had the true heart for the masses.

Mr. Estrada said Tarlac was close to his heart because it was there that he acted in the movie "Kumander Alibasbas."

He said he appreciated the warm welcome he got in Concepcion, in the high school gymnasium named after the murdered husband of Aquino.

The former president is among the leaders of the united opposition against Mr. Estrada.

Elation

In the ambush interview, Mr. Estrada expressed elation that at this point, everybody was talking about a "post-acquittal scenario."

He said it would do well for his critics to abide by the rule of law, especially the ruling of the impeachment court.

"That is why, whatever is the ruling of the impeachment trial court, we have to abide by it," he said.

The President also said that instead of staging protest rallies, the Catholic Church should concentrate on "praying for peace."

"We must pray, we should unite for the betterment and progress of this country," he said, adding that unrest and turmoil would only bring more hardship to the Filipino people.

As it was now, he said, his government should be credited for having an orderly and credible impeachment process.

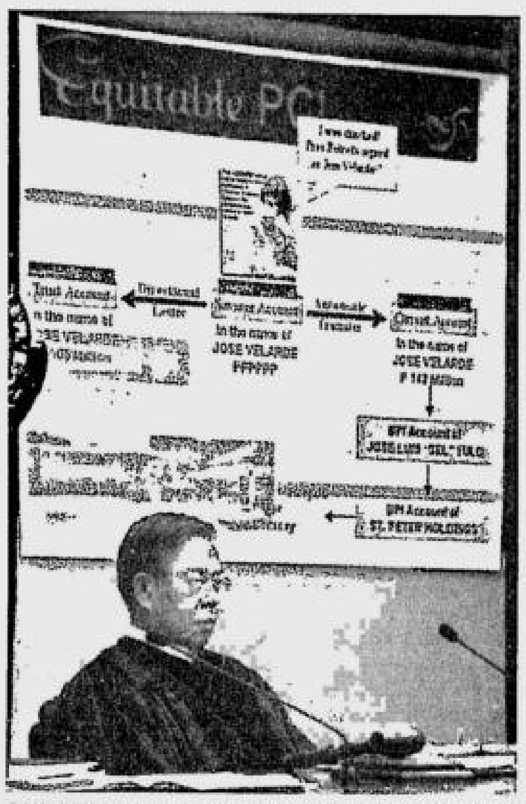
"We have already shown that democracy is strong," he said.

Projects

Earlier, the President conducted an aerial inspection of government projects in Tarlac.

He vowed to finish the Balog-Balog Dam, which would irrigate more than 8,000 hectares of agricultural land, and declared that he would release P70 million for the completion of the Sta. Rita-San Antonio Bridge.

Most of those who came to hear the President speak carried claim stubs for the bags of gifts which were distributed after his speech.



CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide listens intently as the prosecution bolsters its oral argument with a Powerpoint presentation. ERNIE SARMIENTO

Senator-judges agree on one thing: Davide

(From page A1)

said the INQUIRER choice was timely, "especially now that we are soul searching on the ills of our country." He said Davide was setting an example for Filipinos to "go back to values."

Senator-Judge Loren Legarda-Leviste said Davide was "brilliant choice."

"Chief Justice Davide is someone I respect and admire. His rulings have been consistent and his discipline and brilliance have made us very fortunate to have him as presiding officer," she said.

"It's an excellent choice," said Senator-Judge Franklin Drilon.

"Most deserving," said another senator-judge, Juan Ponce-Enrile.

Senator-Judge Robert Jaworski said that "being Chief Justice alone is indication that he deserves the award. And for that I salute and congratulate the man."

There was a similar convergence of opinion from the prosecution and defense lawyers.

Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, a House prosecutor, said the accolade on Davide was "good, deserving, timely."

Defense lawyer Raul Daza summed it in one word: "Deserving."

Davide, as presiding officer of the impeachment trial, was recognized by the INQUIRER for making "the most positive impact this past year on the life of the nation."

Davide himself modestly declined to give any comment on the latest recognition he had reaped.

The INQUIRER tried to elicit a comment from Davide through a note coursed through one of his aides. But as soon as the trial was adjourned Monday night, the Chief Justice just went back to his room to take off his robe and then quietly slipped out of the Senate building.

But during the flag ceremony Monday morning at the Supreme Court in Manila, Davide was given a rousing applause by the high court's employees. SC Clerk of Court Luzviminda D. Puno said Davide could only muster a smile in response to the praises heaped on him.

"He rarely comments on these. He is that humble and modest," Puno said.

"We are all so proud of him," she added.

House Prosecutor Rep. Raul Gonzalez noted that Davide "as a human being, should be appreciated for the sacrifice of standing between diverse persuasions among 22 (senator-judges) and refereeing two sides of lawyers."

"It has been very manifest that he deserves that honor. This is something that is already of a burden to him, physically and with regard to his duties as Chief Justice," Gonzalez said.

Prosecutor Rep. Roan Libarios likewise hailed the INQUIRER's choice, but he cautioned that "a lot still remains (to be seen) on how he performs in the last stretch of the trial."

House prosecution spokesperson Rep. Edmond Reyes, indicating the prosecution's desire to win a conviction in the impeachment trial, said he hoped Davide "would give us a greater reason to also choose him as Man of the Year in 2001."

Surigao governor cleared of rape

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has cleared Surigao del Sur Gov. Primo T. Murillo of three counts of rape filed by the daughter of one of his staff members last year. The DOJ also dismissed the complaint for extortion and perjury hurled by Murillo against the complainant's mother and brother.

In a 16-page resolution, State Prosecutor Paul L. Hernando found no probable cause to warrant the formal filing of the charges in court.

"We have assiduously reviewed and carefully calibrated, the evidence thus adduced by all the parties herein. The department rules that, on the applicable provisions of the law, the pertinent rules on evidence, and jurisprudence on the matter, there is no probable cause to charge respondent Murillo with the offense of rape," Hernando said.

Similarly, Hernando said, there was no sufficient evidence to establish probable cause in the complaints for extortion... and perjury against ,(the victim's brother and mother).

In dismissing the charges, Hernando doubted that Murillo had sexually molested the victim—a 20-year-old Physical Therapy student—thrice last year. "(T)he story (is) unbelievable, not to mention the fact that the complainant was doubtless inconsistent in her declarations in her first and second sworn affidavits," he said.

Hernando pointed out that what "is more apparent from a perusal of the conflicting versions of the parties, is that (the) complainant and (the) respondent, a married man, had been willing parties to a romantic liaison that as it turned out has an unhappy ending. There is indeed evidence indubitably pointing to the fact that (the) complainant and (the) respondent were lovers."

Inferring from the circumstances relative to the amorous relations between the two, Hernando said "the end of the love affair had raised complainant's fury to hell; hence, she cried rape, if only to return the grief and torment that respondent had visited upon her."

Similarly, Hernando did not find a solid evidence to indict the victim's mother and brother for perjury and extortion.

"Such evidence (presented by Murillo), in our estimation, does not account much as constitutive of proof of probable cause," he stressed.

It was the National Bureau of Investigation that filed the rape charges after it established sufficient evidence to recommend the prosecution of the governor for allegedly sexually molesting the victim.

MAKE WET FLOORS SAFE

NEW TRUSTY STEP Anti-Slip

Reduce Slip/Fall Accidents by 90-100%

"Slippery when wet" floors are accidents "waiting to happen". Prevent accidents with 21st century technology *Trusty Step Anti-Slip* Treatment.

Trusty Step makes any type of floor (e.g. ceramic tiles, granite, marble, concrete, terrazzo quarry, bricks etc.) slip-resistant especially when wet! One anti-slip treatment increases floor's traction by 500%.

Features:
- Highly effective
- Inexpensive
- Invisible
- Long-term protection
- Won't change appearance of floors
- Free installation
- Made in U.S.A.

It is so effective, so revolutionary that floors stays safe even when wet with soap or when submerged in water!

For Indoor or Outdoor use

Typical Applications:
- Showers/Bathtubs
- Entrances
- Pool Areas
- Restaurant Kitchens
- Ramps, Driveways
- Docks, etc.

Call us NOW for FREE Demo

Provincial dealers are welcome.

Call us NOW for ALL types of slippery floors problems.

For inquiries, pls. call:
Benewell Distributors
Telephone No.: 743-9349 / 731-3416
e mail: bened@pacific.net.ph

Mark Jimenez wants more time

By Michael Lim Ubac

FUGITIVE businessman Mark Jimenez, a close friend of President Estrada, has asked the Supreme Court for more time to comment on a motion by the justice department in connection with the extradition proceedings against him.

The motion seeks to clarify if President Estrada could intervene in the extradition of Jimenez that the United States government is seeking.

Jimenez, Mr. Estrada's former presidential adviser on Latin-American affairs, faces charges of conspiracy, tax evasion, mail fraud and illegal campaign contributions pending before US courts.

To convince the high tribunal, Jimenez again cited the participation of his counsel, lawyer Estelito Mendoza, in the impeachment trial of President Estrada as a valid reason for seeking the additional time to file his comment on an "Urgent Motion for Clarification."

Because of Mendoza's involvement in the trial, which is taking nearly all of his time, Jimenez said he would need additional time within which to file the required comment.

Jimenez pleaded with the SC to extend the deadline for another 15 days from Jan. 13 to Jan. 28, 2001.

SHADES OF SARAH

Pinay who killed Arab rapist acquitted

By TJ Burgonio
and Gerald Lacuarta

HER story echoes that of Sarah Balabagan's, but this young Filipina domestic helper in the United Arab Emirates did not suffer the injustice of being convicted as a victim of a rape attempt.

A criminal court in Abu Dhabi ruled on Monday that Mary Jane Ramos, aged 20 at the time of the incident in January 1999, had acted in self-defense against a rape attempt by stabbing her drunken employer with a kitchen knife.

Ramos had been under arrest for two years for killing her Emirati employer.

The family of the dead man, named in UAE newspapers as Mohammad Ali al-Shamsi, have two weeks to appeal against the verdict, after which time Ramos would be released, a defense lawyer told Gulf News.

He said Ramos, meanwhile, was entitled to sue for compensation for the two years she spent in prison and for lost wages.

Ambassador Amable Aguiluz III, in a report sent to the Department of Foreign Affairs, confirmed yesterday that Ramos was found not guilty of the murder charge by the Ras Al Khaimah Criminal Court after a yearlong trial.

The verdict, however, did not include the payment of *diya* or blood money to the family of the victim, reported to have been a member of the ruling family in Ras Al Khaimah, he said.

Ramos, married, of San Agustin, Isabela, stabbed her employer after he tried to force himself on her two days after she arrived in the United Arab Emirates on Jan. 21, 1999.

Ramos, who immediately surrendered to the police, told the court that Al-Shamsi was drunk at the time of the attempted rape. They were alone in the house since Al-Shamsi's wife was abroad.

Ramos said she tried to flee but Al Shamsi pulled her back inside the house. They then wrestled for possession of a kitchen knife until both of them fell on the floor. Ramos was able to get the knife and stabbed her employer to death.

A couple driving past Al-Shamsi's house brought Ramos to the police.

Ramos was detained and charged with murder by Jamal al-Shamsi, brother of the victim. The police then referred the case to a public prosecutor, who in turn approved the filing of the charges in court.

SYSTEMS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL, INC.

A leading training, auditing and consulting group on international system standards and control tools in manufacturing and service industries.

Experience the SNI difference!!!

ATTEND OUR COURSES ON:

ISO 9001: 2000 - Quality Management System
- Appreciation Course on ISO 9001: 2000 ❖ January 22 & May 7
- Implementation & Documentation Requirements of ISO 9001: 2000 ❖ January 22 - 24 & May 7 - 9
- Effective Internal Audit Course based on ISO 9001: 2000 ❖ January 22, 25, 26 & May 7, 10, 11

ISO 14001 - Environmental Management System
- Appreciation Course on ISO 14001 ❖ February 19
- ISO 14001 Implementation Course ❖ February 19 - 21
- EMS Internal Audit Course ❖ February 19, 22, 23

OHSAS 18001 - Occupational Health & Safety Management System
- Introductory Course on OHSAS ❖ July 17
- Implementing OHSMS based on OHSAS 18001 ❖ July 17, 18, 19

Other Courses Offered
- Introduction to Environmental Management System for PCOs ❖ February 2
- Integrated QEMS Implementation Course ❖ March 12 -14 (ISO 9001: 2000 & ISO 14001 Standards)
- Integrated QEMS Internal Audit Course ❖ March 19 - 21 (ISO 9001: 2000 & ISO 14001 Standards)
- Statistical Process Control ❖ June 18-19
- Appreciation Course on ISO 17025 ❖ April 19 - 20 (QMS for Testing & Calibration Laboratories)

To register, please contact us at:
SYSTEMS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Tel. No. (63 2) 637 4039 / 4040
Fax No. (63 2) 637 4062
E-mail: sni@info.com.ph
Contact Persons: Gilbert / Nellie / Jane

All courses are also available as in-house courses.

NEWSBRIEFS

Maceda's son at SEC

PRESIDENT Estrada has appointed Ernest Maceda, the son of former senator Ernesto Maceda, as associate commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission effective Feb. 1 this year.

The position, which carries a term of seven years, has been left vacant since mid-2000, when then SEC associate commissioner Danilo Concepcion stepped down to become president of Arellano University after his term, which ended last March, was not renewed.

The younger Maceda has been chief-of-staff of Speaker Arnulfo Fuentabella since November. He served as Manila councilor from 1988-1992 and 1992-1995.

RP-US war games set

THE PHILIPPINES and US will hold their second combined military exercises in the country between Jan. 18 to Feb. 5 at the former American military bases Clark Field in Pampanga and Subic Bay in Olongapo City.

Tagged as Teak Piston 01-2, the 18-day exercises will involve 200 members of the US Air Fore 353rd Special Operations Group and 203 Filipino airmen.

The exercises follow the Balikatan 2000 held between January to March last year, the first major combined maneuvers after the Senate ratified the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement..

9 MILF rebs killed in 2 clashes

COTABATO CITY—Nine members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front were killed while a soldier was wounded in two separate skirmishes in Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat on Monday, the military here said.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said eight rebels were killed in a clash with elements of the 75th Infantry Division in Barangay Mina, Palembang in Sultan Kudarat Monday noon.

Ando said the government soldiers were responding to a report by civilians that they sighted about 50 rebels in the village.

In Barira, Maguindanao, an MILF guerrilla was killed and an unidentified civilian was wounded in a 30-minute clash between rebels and government troops in Barangay Old Town Site. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Movie extras in pro-Erap marches

OPPOSITION Rep. Heherson Alvarez, quoting friends in the film industry, claimed yesterday that movie extras were being mobilized by the President's rally organizers in their battle of noise and numbers vis-a-vis anti-Estrada activists.

"And they are doing good. They sing, they chant and dance, mainly because they have the dramatic skills," he said.

"About 1,000 or more" coming from this pool of extras, he said, make up the "regular troopers deployed in rallies held at the Senate grounds or anywhere they are allowed."

Gov't seeking new talks with Reds

CONCEPCION, Tarlac—Government negotiators are in contact with communist guerrilla leaders, paving the way for peace talks, according to President Estrada said.

Mr. Estrada, in a visit here yesterday said provincial governor Jose Yap would head a three-man peace panel in the talks.

Yap told reporters he had a "direct line" to Jose Maria Sison, the Netherlands-based founder of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines, adding Sison had already given a "go-signal" to start preliminary talks.

President Estrada said he expected good news "maybe next week." ***AFP***

Siazon to take 2-month leave

FOREIGN Secretary Domingo Siazon is going on a two-month leave late this month to undergo medical treatment for a serious ailment in the United States.

Siazon, who was appointed secretary by President Estrada in 1998, is suffering from a prostate-related ailment, according to sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The 61-year-old Siazon said that he would undergo treatment to avoid a major operation later. "If you don't deal with it, it will be serious," he said.

Undersecretary Lauro Baja will serve as the acting secretary in his absence.

FVR still upbeat

FORMER President Fidel Ramos yesterday continued to make his sales pitch for the country, telling foreign investors in Hong Kong that now was the best time to put their money in the Philippines, the impeachment trial notwithstanding.

Ramos told a forum organized by the Worldsec International Securities (Phils.) and Worldsec Ltd. (HK) that the impeachment trial of President Estrada actually proved the strength of the country's democratic institutions.

Travel agents on protest

TRAVEL agencies are up in arms over the decision of Northwest Airlines to cut their commissions and on Monday, they made their sentiments known by picketing two offices of the American carrier.

Members of the Philippine Travel Agencies Association of the Philippines (PTAA) and Philippine IATA Agents Travel Association (PIATA) said Northwest's decision, which was implemented on Monday, is the latest blow to hit the travel market which was already reeling from the Asian flu of 1997, the current political turmoil and the plunging value of the peso.

Pickets were held in front of Northwest offices in Makati and Manila.

CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH

-Private Sector-

SO THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW

SECOND PRICE ROLLBACK OF 90 CENTAVOS DUE JANUARY

The adjusted oil price rollback for the month of January, after deducting the "other cost recoveries", is an average of P0.90 centavos per liter computed as follows:

TOTAL OIL PRICE ROLLBACK DUE THE MONTH OF JANUARY		P3.25
Deduct:		
1. Under recovery for October & November	.65	
2. Our estimate of the "other cost recoveries" claimed by the oil companies	1.20*	P1.85
TOTAL PRICE ROLLBACK DUE AFTER UNDER RECOVERY		P1.40
Deduct average oil price rollback last January 9 by the three oil companies		.50
AMOUNT STILL DUE FROM THE OIL COMPANIES		P0.90 centavos

*OTHER COST RECOVERIES

We appeal to the DOE and the oil companies to be transparent and to disclose the cost breakdown of their other cost recoveries on a per liter basis for each product.

Nevertheless, we have provided P1.20 for the cost of implementing the Clean Air Act, affecting ONLY diesel and NOT gasoline, and a partial recovery of their losses last year.

FEBRUARY OIL PRICE INCREASE

On the eve of the OPEC meeting, where we expect oil production to be reduced and the peso drop at a new record low of P53.10, oil prices will increase in February.

It is imperative for the oil companies to announce the total oil price rollback for the month of January so that the public can understand that the "over recovery" in January will be used to offset the oil price increase next month.

A public service message of:

CONCEPCION INDUSTRIES

Raul Concepcion
RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

For comments or inquiries, call 844-8785, 812-6751 to 62; Fax: 818-6203
Email address: rtc@CII.mozcom.com

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inquirer.net

• 100% soy ink •

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 40
ISSN 0116-2642

ISAGANI YAMBOT
Publisher

LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Editor in Chief

JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Managing Editor

ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor

ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
News Editor

NILO B. PAUROM
Assistant News Editor

PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
National Editor

GERRY LIRIO
City Editor

JORGE V. ARUTA
Opinion Editor

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Senior Deskperson

AMANDO DORONILA
Editorial Consultant

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Board Chairman

ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President

RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing

DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services

FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP for Advertising

GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
AVP for Circulation

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Rocas Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

Forced to scrimp

EDITORIAL

IT'S still very early in the new year, but the Estrada administration has been already forced to cut by P40 billion the 2001 national budget which has not even been passed by Congress. President Estrada submitted a P725-billion budget proposal for 2001, P96 billion more than last year's budget, with a projected deficit of P85 billion. But with a huge deficit looming in the horizon, the administration now plans to limit its expenditures to P685 billion. With higher interest rates, a weakening peso and expected revenue shortfalls, the budget deficit could soar to as much as P130 billion, Economic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla said. The government is "very serious in reining in the deficit," he said, and it will give this a higher priority than pump-priming the economy to stimulate growth.

Cutting the budget isn't the best thing the government can do, it is perhaps the only thing it can do. That humongous "election budget," as Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno once called it rather proudly, is something the government simply cannot support. It was based on some economic assumptions that were more of a wish list than anything else, like a GNP growth rate of 5.5 percent, export growth of almost 16 percent, interest rates of less than 10 percent and a foreign exchange rate of P42 to a dollar. Already quick to sweep under the rug charges of mismanagement and cronyism leveled against President Estrada, the country's budget planners also didn't foresee the political turbulence that erupted in the last quarter of 2000 and its devastating impact on the economy. Now the administration is talking of a GNP growth rate of 3.7 percent at best and an export growth of 10 percent. In the meantime, interest rates have soared to 14 percent, and the peso's value has plummeted to a historic low of P52.78 as of yesterday.

As it is, holding the deficit down to P130 billion could be another false promise. Last year, the administration said it would limit the deficit to P62.5 billion. But by September, it had already exceeded the target for the year by incurring an P83-billion deficit. By October, the deficit had risen to P95 billion and by the end of the year, this soared to P135 billion. That astronomical deficit was based on a budget of P629 billion. Now the government is proposing to spend P56 billion more or P685 billion. So how can it manage to keep the deficit down to the same level when the economy is not expected to go over the hump in the foreseeable future?

Business leaders and private economists actually see no signs of recovery in the near future, particularly if President Estrada is acquitted by the Senate in his impeachment trial. Guillermo Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, sees a recession developing and continued capital flight after a vote to acquit the President. Cayetano Paderanga, a former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, predicts a P58 to $1 exchange rate in case of an "indecisive acquittal," meaning a close vote to exonerate Mr. Estrada. He also sees a massive capital flight on a scale not seen since 1984.

Given this bleak economic scenario, the administration's problem may not be how to keep the deficit low. Even if it wanted to, the government may not have the means to engage in deficit spending. International financial institutions have shut off the tap. The government's capacity to borrow local funds is necessarily limited in a battered economy. So unless it decides to print paper money, the administration may just be forced to spend according to its means.

This is another important point to ponder before the senators render their verdict in the impeachment case.

Admirable example

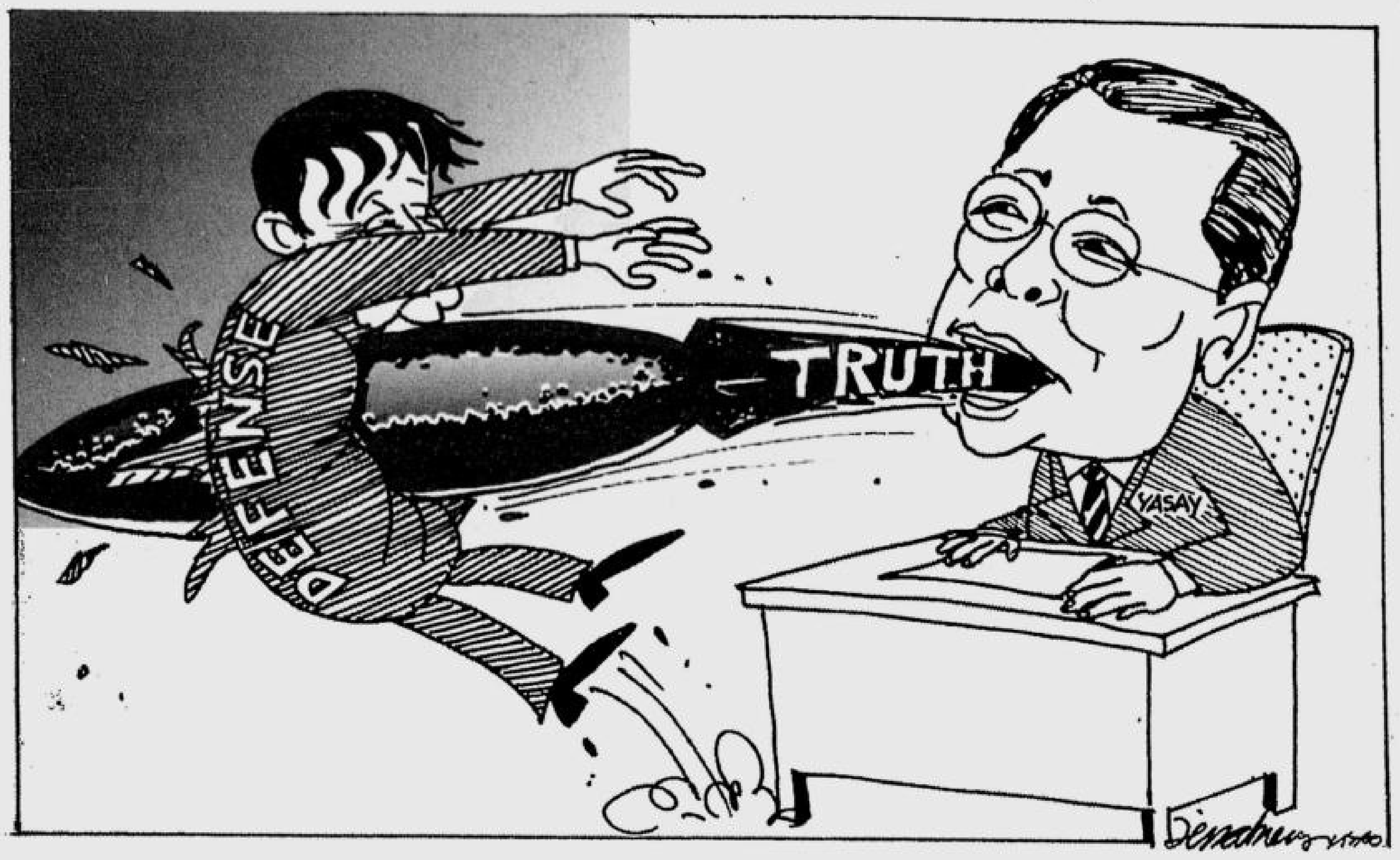
FOREIGN COMMENT

IT has been made clear by recent events in Prague that citizens of the Czech Republic place a high value on media freedom.

The appointment of Jiri Hodac as director general of the Czech state television service has raised the issue of political cronyism. Journalists have barricaded themselves into the Prague studios. More than 100,000 people have taken to the streets in protest and parliament has begun a process which should soon lead to Hodac's removal from office.

Political appointments to the main television services, with consequent influence on programming, have not been unknown in many countries in Western Europe but the response has been one of apathy, both from journalists and the general public. However, the people of the Czech Republic have a bitter historical experience in this sphere. They are more aware than most, that creeping politicization of the media, particularly of television, needs constant vigilance.

The Irish Times (Dublin, Ireland)



Cross-examination of Yasay was a fiasco for defense

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE CROSS-EXAMINATION by defense lawyer Raul Daza of prosecution witness Perfecto Yasay, former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, was a fiasco. It rivals the fiasco that lawyer Sigfrid Fortun inflicted on the defense when he cross-examined Land Bank cashier Caridad Rodenas and unsuccessfully tried his Delia Rajas trick that boomeranged on him. (Fortun and his brother Raymond are now facing contempt charges in the impeachment court.)

In Daza's case, he tried his own show by playing to the court television tapes of three news interviews in which Yasay denied his earlier testimony before the Senate blue ribbon committee that President Erap pressured him to clear Dante Tan in the BW Resources scandal. It would have been a coup to impeach the credibility of Yasay had it succeeded, but Yasay made a very good explanation that made his testimony more believable instead.

He admitted making contradictory statements but said he was forced to do it because of threatening phone calls that made him fear for his safety.

He said that after he left the Senate hearing, his cell phone rang in his car and a male voice told him in Filipino:

"You son of a bitch, you are lucky he is now the President, otherwise your body would now be found in a ditch."

When he got home, Yasay said, he got another call from the same man: "You son of a bitch, you better watch out."

Thirty minutes later, Tan himself called and asked why he, Yasay, revealed being pressured by the President.

"I told Mr. Dante Tan that there's nothing I can do because I was under oath, and that's why I am forced to tell the truth," Yasay said.

He continued that Tan told him the President was very angry and told him to retract his testimony.

"And so that evening when I was called upon to attend the interview I had to make those statements (denials)," Yasay continued.

Yasay said his fear was not that he would be harmed, but that "he would be harmed without his family or anyone knowing who did it to him."

But during a Senate hearing a few days later, when Sen. Raul Roco asked him if he wanted to change his testimony because of his denials to the press, Yasay said he replied, "No, Your Honor. The statements I made at the last hearing were the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and I will not change it (them)."

In that same statement to the Senate, Yasay quoted Erap as telling him: "*Sinabi ko na sa 'yo, bilisan n'yo 'yang* investigation *at I-*clear *n'yo si* Dante Tan. *Sino ba ang tatawagan ko sa* PSE?"

Yasay added that his statements in the Senate hearings were made under oath while those in the TV interview were not.

This revelation from Yasay, prompted by Daza's questioning, only put Erap deeper in the BW insider trading scandal instead of impugning Yasay's credibility.

In another boo-boo, Daza, trying to impute bias and ill-motives in Yasay's testimony, asked if the opposition had offered him a slot in its lineup of candidates.

Yasay replied that he had received only one offer to run for public office, and that was from Erap. Yasay said the offer was communicated to him by then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora who said that in exchange for resigning as SEC chair, "the President had already approved a plan for me to run as congressman in the first district of Davao.

"And they will make sure that no other candidate will be running against me and that they will finance all my expenses in the campaign," Yasay said Zamora told him. "Because they were sure that I was going to win the election, I was going to be given a major chairmanship of a major committee in the House of Representatives."

He rejected the offer, Yasay said.

"Did the opposition make any offer after you resigned from the SEC?" Daza asked.

"No," Yasay replied.

To sum up, cross-examination by defense lawyers of prosecution witnesses, starting with Emma Lim by lawyer Estelito Mendoza, has not made a dent on the credibility of the witnesses nor their testimony. On the contrary, they only became more credible.

As I said in an earlier column, even the best lawyers are no match for witnesses telling the truth.

* * *

TODAY's Erap joke:

Loi died and went straight to Heaven where she was welcomed by St. Peter and taken on a tour of the Heavenly Kingdom. In one big room, she saw many clocks whose hands were moving around at different speeds. She asked St. Peter what they were for.

"Oh, they measure the lying of people on earth," St. Peter replied. "Each clock monitors a world leader. Everytime he lies the hands move." Just then, the hand of a clock moved. "See, that clock there is for Bill Clinton. That means he just lied."

She saw another clock whose hands were moving a little faster. "Whose clock is that?" she asked.

"That's for Yasser Arafat."

"The hands of this clock has not moved at all. Whose is it?" Loi asked.

"That's for the Pope. He hasn't told a lie in his life," replied St. Peter.

After searching the room, Loi asked: "But where's the clock for my Erap? Where is it?"

"Oh, it's in Jesus' room, being used as an electric fan."

End of the day

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT was nightfall when I left the Senate some weeks ago, after attending one of the sessions in the impeachment trial. I had parked outside the Senate grounds, and while on my way to my car, I was swept by a crowd that had just rallied in front of the Senate. Their placards, which they still waved about while trudging away, proudly proclaimed "Erap pa rin!". They formed a long line on the sidewalk, the children traipsing along and singing Christmas ditties while banging on empty Minola cans. Some of the men carried their small children on their shoulders, and held on to their other children by the hand. Now and then, they chanted slogans.

They walked toward an area where several buses waited, their engines idling loudly in the dark. I did not know if these men, women and children were paid to go to the rally. I did not know if they were promised rice and canned goods to hop on board and profess undying love for their President. But one thing I saw clearly. These people were not doing this with a heavy heart. They were not doing this with leaden feet. They might have been El Shaddai converts come to worship at the feet of Mike Velarde.

I thought to myself: Erap's greatest crime was not stealing the people's money, it was stealing the people's hopes. Erap's greatest crime was not turning the country into one huge gambling den, it was turning the country into one huge opium den.

I remembered this last week when I read about the surveys done by the Social Weather Stations, Pulse Asia and a group called Data Advisors Inc. The surveys showed that most of the respondents believed Erap was guilty as sin. But seemingly contradictorily, they remained divided on whether Erap should be sent packing or not. Just as many, if not slightly more, respondents in the surveys thought Erap should continue to serve out his term.

I myself have never been a great fan of surveys, and have always worried about their self-fulfilling effects. But that three surveys should produce results that do not differ widely from each other must suggest that there is probably a (huge) grain of truth in them. Besides, we have the evidence offered by our own eyes and ears: Erap's support from the *masa* may have dramatically declined, but he still carries much clout with them. You hear the debates in street corners, in homes and offices and in family reunions—the last probably only last Christmas, when the passions reminded you of yearend 1985.

I do not see why all this should discourage those of us who want to rid the country of its dregs and make a fresh start. I should think it should only pose a great challenge to—and opportunity for—us.

The fact that half of the people now think Erap should go is itself already cause for much elation: It shows how deeply the opposition's arguments have sunk into the public mind. That the other half still think he ought to remain in office despite being guilty, well, what's needed there is not just enlightening the poor but understanding the poor. At the very least, why should people who have been condemned to a life of brutishness and violence show reason and sagacity when the time comes?

But more than that, you're poor, you'll consider the proposition that a president is guilty of looting the treasury and the proposition that he should give up power two entirely different things. They are not automatically cause and effect. The first has to do with what happens to him. The second has to do with what happens to you. Your plight is such that every change in the national leadership only makes you worse off than before, you will naturally look at change with fear and loathing.

But like I said, none of this should discourage us from ousting Erap. It should only compel us to examine what lies beyond ousting Erap, or what is but the same thing, what's in it for the poor. That is the challenge. Friends of mine who refuse to leave government keep telling me that the alternative—Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Cory Aquino, Jaime Cardinal Sin—threatens to bring about the same elitist rule Aquino unveiled after Edsa. I tell them that quite apart from the fact that you won't find a more elitist rule than Erap's—his pro-poor stance merely merits a Famas—the point is not to keep Erap, it is to improve the quality of the opposition. The alternative is not just Macapagal, Aquino and Sin, it is all of us. What we do is what makes the alternative better or worse.

I said something along similar lines only a few days ago to some TV interviewers. They wanted to know what I thought would happen if Erap were acquitted. I said that was an interesting question and answered it, which is another story entirely. But I said that there was a more interesting question, which no one seemed to be asking. Which was: What would happen if Erap were convicted? The implicit assumption seemed to be that if Erap were acquitted, people should go to the streets and mount another Edsa. But if Erap were convicted, people should go back to the way they were and leave everything to the new leaders.

I said that was the thing to truly watch out for. That was the thing that made the poor fearful of change. That was the thing that allowed tyrants to keep coming back in this country again and again. That was the thing that made us repeat our history again and again. I said I could not see why the keen public awareness and civic-mindedness and activism that had been unleashed with Erap's impeachment should be allowed to die down. I said keeping it alive was the only way we could compel the new government to seriously address corruption and give the poor a real stake in their society.

And there lies the opportunity, too. For the impeachment trial has done something Edsa itself has not: It has given us the means to do that. It has given the public a vital education. That half the people now think Erap should be removed from office is proof of it; it is a monumental leap in consciousness by itself. It has driven the public to heights of political initiative and enterprise, more and more creatively by the day. It has brought people to say "Never again!" with the realization that unless they remain vigilant, it can happen again. However the trial turns out, whether Erap is acquitted or not, we may not douse those flames like we do the fretful noises of New Year's Eve the next day. We may only fan them into a raging fire.

Ousting Erap is just the beginning, not the end. What is the end? Ask the poor, who trudge along for Erap banging Minola cans. They should give you a good idea of it.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Witnesses flee amid gangster culture

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

KEY witnesses in the impeachment trial of President Estrada have left the country after receiving death threats. The witnesses include former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, who had testified that President Estrada told him he made lots of money in the trading of stocks of BW Resources, controlled by the President's friend, Dante Tan; and Clarissa Ocampo, senior vice president of Equitable PCI Bank, who startled the tribunal with the testimony that she saw President Estrada signing a false name (Jose Velarde) on a trust investment agreement involving P500 million.

These two witnesses have delivered the most devastating and credible testimony in the trial. Another witness, Equitable PCI Bank legal counsel, Manuel Curato is reported to have left the country. Senator-Judge Rene Cayetano received a threat on his life (consisting of a letter and a bullet inside an envelope) after denouncing President Estrada's interventions to try to influence a judicial decision on the Vizconde massacre case. The prosecution team has taken responsibility for the safety of its witnesses because it can't trust the government to protect them, although it is the responsibility of the state, with its law enforcement powers, to provide this protection.

The point I am making is that the trial is conducted amid an atmosphere of threats, fear and intimidation; and the state is remiss in its responsibility to ensure the safety of witnesses. Wherever the threats come from, this atmosphere of fear constitutes an obstruction of justice, and the government has done nothing to give assurances that those who testify under oath to tell the truth would enjoy the state's protection. On the contrary, the presidential point man on impeachment, Ernesto Maceda, has added insult to injury by saying that Espiritu had fled the country because he was afraid of being held to account for perjury.

Maceda is being paid precious taxpayers money to concoct black propaganda and smear for the President in a time of record-breaking deficits. He should be doing his job in Washington, as our ambassador, but he has returned to the country as a purveyor of distortions on the truth. Between Maceda and Espiritu, there is no question about who will win a credibility test or who is more likely to commit perjury. If there is one factor that has been harming the President's cause, next to the overwhelming evidence on corruption, cover-ups of wealth extraction and the abuse of presidential powers to influence deals in favor of presidential cronies, it is Maceda. The President says he has reformed, he could not have chosen a worse façade of reform than Maceda. Maybe, the President, in his proclivity for double-talk, finds Maceda the epitome of reform in its perverse sense. Maceda does not have to fear for his life—he has immunity from harm, except from brain damage. He is on the side of those who have might and power. Espiritu, Ocampo, et al.—and all those who have rediscovered courage to speak out against the venalities of the Estrada administration and have overcome fear—don't have such immunity. This is why they find sanctuary in another land where the legal and political system can give them a fair chance of enjoying the rule of law.

In their own land, where they pay taxes, these witnesses are at the mercy of a gangster culture that has shrouded this administration. It is a culture that fosters law-breaking and criminalization of the state through the involvement of highest state authorities in such activities as illegal gambling, and the undermining of the constitutional processes of impeachment through the failure to ensure the protection of the lives of witnesses.

If the prosecution has produced witnesses the likes of Espiritu, Ocampo, Perfecto Yasay Jr., Jose Luis Yulo, Ruben Almadro, Emma Lim, etc. to uncover the intricate web of corruption outlined in the Articles of Impeachment, it is not because they wanted to take on the President or were aching to commit perjury. The basic reason why they rose above their fears of possible retaliation is that they have had enough of the abuse of presidential powers that were used not to build a nation and its future but to extract wealth for personal enrichment.

The testimony of Yasay, former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, in which he detailed the ordeal he underwent under presidential pressure (at least eight telephone calls) and blandishments from the President, to clear Dante Tan in the investigation into insider trading and manipulation of BW Resources stocks, and the death threats he has received in the course of the investigation, forms the background against which the flight of the key witnesses must be seen.

Yasay's testimony describing the crude presidential interventions in the quasi-judicial functions of the SEC not only draws a picture of abuse of power to favor presidential friends. Equally important is the demonstration of how the coercive intervention of the President forced Yasay to buckle down under pressure, such that he denied in media interviews that the President had told him to clear Dante Tan. In the interviews, Yasay recanted what he had earlier testified at the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings. At the impeachment trial, Yasay had the opportunity to explain his turnaround. At the time of the SEC investigation last year, no one had dared to speak out against the President. Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's exposé came months later. Yasay felt the full brunt of the presidential coercive powers. That's why his explanation is credible.

In the current impeachment trial, we are seeing the withdrawal by the state of its protective mantle on citizens speaking out courageously to perform their civic duty and responsibility. They are prey to the coercive culture of gangsterism against which not even a whimper is heard from state functionaries. No wonder, citizens are driven to consider such actions as taxation boycott.

The value of water

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE NAME of Juan B. Santos, chair and chief executive officer of Nestlé Philippines, has been mentioned as one of three "candidates" being considered for Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry. If you will recall, the DTI post has been vacant since the resignation of Secretary Mar Roxas last November.

In a statement, Santos confirms that he was offered the job of Trade Secretary before the end of last year, but that he could not accept the offer "due to health reasons and his desire, after consultation with his immediate family, to remain in the private sector."

I happen to personally know one of the other two "candidates" for the post of DTI head, and when the possibility of his succeeding Roxas was brought up in a gathering, he merely laughed off the idea and said he had rejected it outright.

Why then are his and Santos' name still being floated as being "in the running" for the trade and industry post? My suspicion is that the Estrada administration is having a difficult time recruiting credible figures from the business community to take over the DTI. A sign of their desperation, I would hazard, are reports that the DTI post has even been offered to outgoing Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda, who is said to be smarting after having "lost" the contest for Executive Secretary. Now, Manong Ernie is a man of many talents, I concede, including being an extremely provocative spokesperson for the President on the impeachment trial, but a high credibility among the business community is not one of his gifts, I fear.

* * *

THE LETTER written by Sr. Christine Tan seems at first blush "remarkable," if not against human nature.

Writing as "coordinator" of the Alay Kapwa Christian Community in Leveriza, the Good Shepherd nun in essence supports the petition of Maynilad, the corporation that owns and operates the privatized water supply system that now provides water to their urban poor community, for an increase in its rates.

Why would an urban poor leader, and her group presumably, support a move that would result in higher water rates?

Having lived among Leveriza's poor in the past 21 years, Sister Christine says that in the years before Maynilad took over the water service, their experience "has been pitiful, if not tragic."

"Water came in drops," she recalls. "I would literally wait for an hour or more before a small pail fills with water. Many times, there would be no water at all, with no warning. Sometimes, this situation would last for three days, without a drop..." But since Maynilad took over, "water runs from our faucets 24 hours a day. Supply is plentiful..."

This may explain why, if the choice boils down to poor (or no) service at low rates or better service at slightly higher rates, even the desperately poor would choose to pay more if only to be assured of a regular supply of clean water.

* * *

WATER is a life-and-death matter. Many years ago, I was struck by this simple statement from Unicef: "Clean water is the cheapest medicine." Because dirty water is the greatest killer, too.

Millions of children around the world die or get sick as a result of diseases borne by organisms in contaminated water. Families and governments would not need to spend huge amounts on medicines and treatment of these diseases if only safe and potable water were made available to every home.

No wonder it has been said that "clean water is a human right."

There was a loud outcry in 1997 when the government announced that it had privatized the MWSS and divided the franchise between two private concessionaires, Manila Water which was awarded the East Zone, and Maynilad Water Services for the West Zone. The protests were based on the principle that the provision of a basic service (and right) like water is government's primary responsibility, no matter how poorly it performs that service. For the most part, though, the outrage has abated since service not only improved, but rates also went down after privatization.

At the time of the transaction, it was considered the largest privatization project in the world, both in terms of coverage and the size of investment required. As a consequence, governments around the world, especially in developing countries, have been studying the MWSS model for possible replication.

* * *

RIGHT now, though, this model is in peril mainly because of the unprecedented and unforeseen drop in the value of the peso against the dollar.

In a recent briefing before the media, Maynilad President Raffy Alunan presented their case in simple terms:

In 1997, when they were awarded the West Zone concession, Maynilad agreed to pay P4.5 billion over three years at the exchange rate of P26.50 to $1 for dollar-denominated loans. "We anticipated a 2 percent slide in (the value of) the peso," Alunan says, but certainly not the nearly 100 percent drop in the peso's value. Because of the steep fall in the peso, Maynilad has had to pay P2 billion pesos more, or P6.5 billion, taking the additional P2 billion from its capital investment fund.

What does this mean? It means not only less money for improving water systems, but also failure of Maynilad to meet its financial obligations, threatening the continued existence of the company.

This is why Maynilad is now petitioning the MWSS, as the regulator, for an automatic currency exchange rate adjustment (CERA) that would, like those applied by other utility companies, be tied to the value of the peso.

As a consumer and householder, I would certainly wince at any more increase in utility rates, given the already dizzying increases in electricity and telephone rates, for instance. But for water, and clean and available water at that, I would be willing to help the concessionaire shoulder the burden of continuing to provide this vital service.

Talking of rats

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE of the New Yorker articles I clipped and kept in my notebook is a review of a specialty restaurant in China that serves fresh rat cooked in three ways. There is something about rats that makes me feel ill at the mere sight of them. Normally, when cornered on a dining table I will try anything once—bear's paw, sweetened ovaries of snow frog, *bayawak* eggs, python, crocodile steak, *azucena* and even cat in "sio-meow." So far I have not tried bat and rat. Bats stink and look like rats with wings so it seems worse than rats. Someone who has offered me a plate full of roasted rats claims he only serves field rats which are supposed to be cleaner than their urban relations because they feed on rice rather than trash. Adventurous as I am, I have yet to muster enough courage to seek and try it out. Rats, whether they come from the field or a sewer, are a disgusting sight yet, for some perverse reason, I noted down the address of the Chinese rat restaurant for a future column or food trip.

Rats came to mind again as I was doing my annual cleaning of desks and filing cabinets. I had forgotten that I had made photocopies of rat articles from the pre-war Philippine Agricultural Review. It was fascinating to read the various ways of exterminating the pest. In 1909, David B. Mackie was appointed by the director of the Bureau of Agriculture to make a study on rats that took him to Laguna, Albay, Sorsogon and Catanduanes where he singled out a large gray rat (he thought it was a *Mus norwegicus* or closely related to it) as the pest that ravaged the fields in these provinces.

Mackie was very objective and did not blame all the crop destruction on rats. His research revealed other pests whose handiwork was often blamed on rats. For example, wild ducks like the Luzon mallard (*Anas luzonica*) and a small brown duck (*Dendrocygna acuata*) effected "considerable damage in such a way that it might, by an inexperienced person, be misunderstood and charged to the rat. They alight in large numbers in the fields and lay the rice flat in certain areas, thus giving one the impression that it is the work of rats." Another culprit was moth larvae deposited on the base of rice stalks, hatched and ate their way out, leaving ragged holes and falling stalks that were thought to be the work of rats.

Naturally, the various ways of extermination were detailed from traps to poison to bacterial culture. One method he suggested was novel in 1909 and remains so today. It entailed reversal of biological laws. First rats were caught live in traps. He noted that since more males were caught than females, the trapped males resorted to polygamy. His plan was to kill all the females and release all the males producing polyandry, whatever that means. As the male rat population grew, they would kill off the young and harass the females. In time, according to Mackie, the males would eventually kill off all the females and thus exterminate themselves. Reading this reminded me of writer Tina Cuyugan who said the Indonesians had a better way. All captured rats had their bottoms sewed shut and released. Constipation would make them cranky and make fights frequent. The end result is the same, they kill off each other.

As a trying-hard food critic, I was particularly drawn to an article in the September 1908 issue of the Philippine Agricultural Review that gave a number of gourmet recipes for rat food:

"Recipe 1: 4 kilos ground rusty bacon; 3 kilos ground corn, soaked overnight in a solution of syrup and water; 2 kilos finely powdered glass; 1.5 kilos arsenous acid.

"Recipe 2: 5 kilos ground sweet potato (baked); 1 kilo cracked wheat or flour made from same; 2 kilos old cheese; 2 kilos finely powdered glass; 1.5 kilos arsenous acid.

"Recipe 3: 3 kilos rusty bacon; 2 kilos rolled oats; 1 kilo syrup; 2 kilos finely powdered glass; 2 kilos sweet potatoes (baked); 2 kilos finely powdered glass; 1.5 kilos arsenous acid.

"Recipe 4: 2 kilos tallow; 3 kilos old cheese; 1 kilo stale bread; 2 kilos common potatoes (baked); 2 kilos finely powdered glass; 1.5 kilos arsenous acid.

"Recipe 5: 2 kilos rusty ground bacon; 3 kilos soaked rice; 1 kilo tallow; 1 kilo cracked corn; 1.5 kilos syrup; 2 kilos finely powdered glass; 200 grams of triturated strychnine sulphate.

"Recipe 6: Poisoned egg. This is made from the yolks of hard-boiled eggs, broken into small fragments and thoroughly mixed with triturated sulphate of strychnine in the proportion of 2 or 3 grains of strychnine to the yolk of a good-sized egg. This is an effect bait, but does not keep well."

These articles reminded me of a monk from Manila who decided to take the law in his hands and rid his cell of rats. He bought a box of commercial rat killer, poured some on a saucer and slept. He was delighted to find the saucer clean next day. Next night, same result. Overjoyed he decided to pour the entire box into the saucer on the third night only to find it empty with a big hole—the rats loved the poison so much they beat him to it and survived. How I wish we could get rid of the two-footed rat variety in our midst but it will take more than ground glass and arsenic of this kind.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@pusit.admu.edu.ph

Instead of catharsis, a catastrophe

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

ONLY eight senator-judges can block President Estrada's conviction. We had thought that a few of these die-hard pro-Estrada senators would transcend their personal interests, and decide purely on whether or not there is enough evidence of a President's corruption that he can no longer have the mandate to govern.

However, after 22 days watching these senators at the trial, it looks like we're wrong.

Even before they open their mouths, you know already what they'll try to do. Senator-Judge Teresa Aquino-Oreta's face lights up when in her mind, she thinks she has dented a prosecution witness' testimony. You can expect that know-all smirk on Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's face when in his mind he thinks he's proven a prosecution witness prevaricating. What can you expect from a senator-judge like John Osmeña, who remarked in a TV interview, after the lengthy yet explosive testimony of former Finance Secretary Eduardo Espiritu and former SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay, that the problem with the impeachment is "*daldalan ng daldalan*" (yackity-yack)? What can you expect from Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who in her mind thinks there is an anti-Estrada mob out there out to lynch her?

Despite all of the explosive testimony presented by the prosecution, nothing seems to have changed in most of these eight senators' behavior. They've made up their minds. They've often even acted as members of the defense panel themselves.

Nope, it looks more and more that that there'll be no crossing-of-the-party lines no, giving-up-of-personal-stakes for a nobler purpose in this Senate.

That Estrada will be acquitted in the past week is starting to become conventional wisdom at coffee-shop talks, at office chit-chat and in e-mail groups. The markets certainly think so. Ask any banker or analyst and he'll say the local currency's international value has lost nearly P2 in the past two days because of the expectation of a worsening political situation with the acquittal of Estrada.

That kind of forecast has started to be elevated to country-risk reports, the type you can't fault for political bias. For instance, the Japanese stock brokerage firm Nomura International (Hong Kong) Ltd., in its Jan. 17 alert says: "Barring, major developments, Estrada is likely to win." The brokerage firm described that scenario though as a "pyrrhic victory." Prospects for the Philippines will get worse before it gets better, and the country's politics will continue for months to be uncertain, the brokerage firm concluded.

Worse, justifications for Estrada's victory has started to circulate. A ranking executive of an oil firm for instance claims that some in the business community now aren't excited over the prospects of Estrada's ouster because of the perception—valid or not—that the constitutional successor, Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been too close to the Left. Why that is such a weak excuse for wishing that Estrada continues in office is however evident with another argument circulating against Macapagal: that she's shown that she's been too close to old-style politicians.

Acceptance of an acquittal scenario is also being drummed up by new Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, who has been spreading the word around, privately telling big-wigs in the business community, that there's no need to worry anymore about an Estrada presidency. Angara is saying that his assumption of the "Little President" post has really been, as our colleague Amando Doronila put it, a "bloodless coup" in Malacañang.

Former national security adviser Jose Almonte—in a speech before executive committee of the coup plotters' organization now called Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa—aptly called the political crisis "a cleansing fire." We're sure Almonte meant that it would only be such a catharsis if Estrada is convicted.

The trial has been painful for the country. It has paralyzed the nation and its economy. However, Estrada's conviction would mean the strengthening of our democratic system—that this constitutional process called impeachment works, and the senators are true representatives of the people. It could also mean the start of a new-found national crusade to cleanse government of corruption.

On the other hand, as the steep fall of the peso's value has signaled, Estrada's victory would mean disaster. Respondents in an online poll started Monday by this paper's website think so. Out of 3,245 respondents as of Tuesday 2 p.m., 3,031 or 93 percent expect that if Estrada is acquitted, the political and economic situation will "worsen, to a point where protests will intensify against the Estrada government and the economy slumps further." Only 162 respondents think that the situation would normalize.

There's certainly no way for things to normalize. There's no way for Estrada and Angara to stop civil society organizations—practically unanimous in calling for the President to step down—from continuing their protests. The armed Communist Party of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front would certainly exploit the heightened siege against Estrada to launch their own military offensives to regain their lost ground. With incidents in the past months such as the abduction of PR man Bubby Dacer and the Dec. 30 bombings, no one can really say that Estrada's camp will be civil in this fight.

All these at a time of a budget crisis, the weakening of the US economy on which ours is dependent on, and the likely recurrence this year of the El Niño drought.

Among the casualties in Estrada's pyrrhic victory won't be just the economy, but the integrity of our democratic institutions. Almonte thinks the biggest casualty would be the "invisible institution of morality" which is the true foundation of the rule of law and all the other institutions of a civilized society.

Instead of a national catharsis, the impeachment trial, if Estrada is acquitted, will lead to an economic and political catastrophe.

The two defenders

There are really two Defensors who are pillars of Estrada's defense fortification. The first is quite obvious if you've been watching the impeachment trial. The second isn't too obvious.

An active general says that there have been indeed moves for a coup against Estrada just before Christmas or at the very least, a threat delivered to him to resign, or else. The plan though was scuttled when one plotter approached Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's younger brother Maj. Gen. Benjamin Defensor, appointed Air Force Chief, Oct. 10 last year. The plotter was told, "I'll pretend I didn't hear that." The plotters estimate that, as proven in the Edsa 1986 Revolt and in the coup attempts against President Corazon Aquino, there' s no way for a coup to succeed without the support of the Air Force, or at least a section of it.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Miriam's kind of damage control

INQUIRER columnist Raul Palabrica wrote in his column last Jan. 13 that Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has "wisely pointed out that it was bad enough that Espiritu was suffering from severe emotional stress for testifying against his former boss, and that it would be asking too much of him to put his life in danger just to answer a question…"

Is Palabrica saying that Santiago has suddenly taken kindly of Espiritu and showed sympathy and concern for his life? Witnesses who have testified against President Estrada have been unnecessarily humiliated and insulted by Santiago, and Espiritu was not an exception to the Miriam bashing.

Espiritu's testimony was devastating enough. If he were allowed to reveal the names of smugglers associated with the President, even if the information was irrelevant to the impeachment case, it would have further validated the widely talked-about criminal elements linked to the President. The Erap supporters would not let this happen.

Like the devious Delia Rajas stunt pulled by the wily Fortun brothers, Santiago did a very clever deception herself which was unwittingly overlooked by the prosecution. Santiago did some smart damage control to stop Espiritu in his tracks by a subtle reminder that he would be endangering his life by answering one question. To my mind, it was a serious reminder to Espiritu of the real danger to his life if he were to answer that one question. It was given as a veiled threat, not so much as deep concern for Espiritu's personal welfare.

I think it was a big mistake that Espiritu did not identify these smugglers. By following the Santiago dictum, Espiritu may have jeopardized his safety because witnesses are eliminated in order to seal the truth, but not when the truth is already revealed.—**CESAR M. DE LOS REYES, 45 Fordham St., White Plains, Quezon City**

LETTERS

Preventing a precedent from being set

WELL, after day 20 of the impeachment trial, at least now I know that the main issue here is not whether President Estrada is corrupt, immoral and incompetent. For even before this political saga changed the viewing habits of the Filipino people (despite having to endure the grandstanding of our "senator-judges") I already knew the issues against Erap.

Had it been that more Filipinos were stupid enough to heed the opposition's call to join its demand for Erap's resignation, the whole nation would have been deprived of understanding the gravity and extent of Erap's cupidity. Jose Velarde's (a.k.a. Erap Estrada) biggest fault is his insatiable impulse to grab anything on sight.

Tagalog translation: *suwapang si* Erap.

Which also explains the real reason why Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her supporters are insistent that we forego with the constitutional process of declaring Erap as unqualified to remain as our President. These people are obviously hell-bent in preventing a precedent, that is, that we can remove from office all impeachable government officials. For how could they enjoy the fruit of their "labor," even assuming Macapagal can still ascend to the presidency come 2004, if the people by that time, already have the faith in our system, that we don't have to wait for six long years of thievery?

Macapagal and her people may do it with more "finesse," but nevertheless, to believe that the opposition can usher in a new level of probity in running the affairs of our government is akin to saying that there is nothing wrong in Sen. Rene Cayetano's earning a handsome profit from his BW Resources shares. (Does anyone care to "investigate" where the good senator got the money to buy all those shares he declared on nationwide television and if Sen. Ramon Revilla paid his taxes from all his bundles of 960 grams of P1,000-bills?)

Of course, it's difficult to be optimistic, that in spite of the overwhelming evidence pointing to Erap's guilt, his overwhelming "influence" over our "senator-judges" may still lead to an acquittal. And even if we get a guilty verdict, we cannot have any assurance that Erap's PNP Director General Panfilo Lacson, together with their fanatic supporters, will not carry out their own version of "people power."

For how can one argue, when they declare "*gusto kasi ninyo, kayo naman ang magnakaw sa pamahalaan*"?—**RAMON M. SAGULLO, http://rsinform.com**

Letter from Kissa

FIRST of all, please allow me to express my gratitude for all your prayers and support. These made me very strong. Please allow me too, to thank the sisters of St. Scholastica for the basic foundation in my character they helped build. I was in St. Scholastica's for 17 years and there is no denying that they have been instrumental in strengthening the values my parents instilled in me at home.

Please don't worry too much about me. I have completely submitted myself to God. In fact, I feel blessed and honored that he has picked me to be part of his grand scheme. My life has turned 360 degrees and I have to accept the short-term consequences of what I have done. I am confident that the long-term benefits will be far greater. Please tell all the Scholastican's that I love all of them, as much as I love you, the Filipino people and my bank. I hope to see you soon!—**CLARISSA "KISSA" OCAMPO**

Only MILF could have done Metro bombings

THIS refers to the popular perception promoted by cause-oriented and other anti-government groups that Muslims are being made the scapegoats of the Philippine National Police, particularly in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Manila.

The arrest of 17 Muslims in Culiat, Quezon City, and the subsequent release of 14 of them and the apology of no less than Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes, should put this controversy to rest, as the PNP or the AFP is not always after the head of a Muslim whenever high-impact crimes such as the bombings occur. It is to be noted, however, that the PNP's filing of criminal charges against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is not without basis.

First, the MILF is the only terrorist group operating in this country. Based on news reports, MILF members were trained in Afghanistan and its allied countries where terrorism is adopted.

So far, the MILF has been the only criminal group in this country that has openly espoused the use of violence, a basic element of terrorism, as a means to obtain its goals and objectives.

Second, the MILF is the only group technically and financially capable to do the bombings. Based on news reports, the bombs exploded with precision through the use of cellular phones and other sophisticated gadgets. As such, the incident was not the work of an amateur but of a bomb expert. The use of bombs, as in the World Trade Center bombing, is one of the main tactics employed by terrorists. This is because of the impact and the damage it can create. The more explosions and the greater the damage, the better. This is a basic tenet of terrorism, and the MILF terrorists, true to their training, made it a point that the damage will be great by using not one or two bombs, but five bombs. These bombs were directed not at any particular target, but at the people, which is again another trademark of terrorism to force the existing government to give in to its demands.

Aside from this, the operation required a great deal of money. At present, the MILF is the criminal group in this country that has lots of money, courtesy of both Osama bin Laden and the hostages who paid ransom money in the MILF's kidnapping sprees.

If the MILF is a terrorist group, why is it not claiming responsibility for it? The MILF knows that in the Philippines it will not gain more adherents among fellow Muslims if it openly espouses violence in its quest for independence. However, while it may not admit it, the MILF will be betrayed by its own works and words. It is the only group that was trained in Middle East countries identified with terrorism in the world. But while it may pursue terroristic acts, it will continue to hide under the veil of patriotism and its quest for a Bangsamoro country.—**NAME WITHHELD UPON REQUEST**

No patchwork legal technicalities

IN A CASE decided by the Supreme Court, the erudite Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno said that "In cases where the sovereignty of the people is at stake, we must not only be legally right but also politically correct. We cannot fail by making the people succeed." (Frivaldo v. Comelec, 257 SCRA 794) In the same case, the learned Associate Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, who wrote the decision for the Court said that "the real essence of justice does not emanate from quibblings over patchwork legal technicality.

These sterling pronouncements of the Supreme Court which "form part of the law of the land" (Article 8, Civil Code) should serve as an enlightenment to those involved in the ongoing impeachment trial against the President. While it may be "legally right" to question the "materiality or relevancy" of a particular document or testimony of a credible and unimpeachable witness, it will not be "politically correct" to, deprive the people of their constitutional right "to information on matters of public concern." (Section 7, Article III, Constitution)

In other words, the constitutional right of the people to impeach and oust an impeachable public official should not be defeated, lost or frustrated by mere technical objections especially if the guilt of the impeached official could be discovered and proved by the document or testimony sought to be excluded on technical grounds. After all, "politics is a practical matter, and political questions must be dealt with realistically—not from a purely theoretical standpoint." (Padilla v. Comelec, G.R. No. 68351, July 9, 1985)—**ROMULO B. MACALINTAL, 13 Cagayan Valley St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City**

Fortuns were simply doing their job

THIS is a comment to Neal H. Cruz's column titled, "Why did Narvasa allow Fortun's dirty trick?"

I don't know if Cruz is a lawyer, or, if he is, if he ever was into litigation. In asking the witness to identify Delia Rajas in the gallery, lawyer Sigfrid Fortun's purpose was really to impugn the credibility of the witness. Caridad Rodenas claims she knows the person of Delia Rajas. Fortun was merely trying to test Rodenas' knowledge of the identity of Delia Rajas. As it turned out, the Delia Rajas that Rodenas knows is not the same as the Delia Rajas presented by the defense. This was, in fact, clarified by Fortun when Sen. Tito Sotto inquired on the matter. There was neither misrepresentation nor an attempt to mislead the witness or the impeachment court. What was proven was that the witness was referring to another Delia Rajas, not the Delia Rajas present in the gallery. What's misleading about that?

I have been in litigation practice for more than seven years already and what Fortun did was not unconventional. It is a common trial technique which is always employed by litigation lawyers in testing the credibility of a witness who claims to know the identity of a person with whom the witness claims he had business dealings. By employing this trial technique, Fortun even enlightened the impeachment court of the identity of the true Delia Rajas. And if this is even a point against the defense, as Cruz claims in his column, so be it. But it would be wrong to accuse Fortun of playing dirty tricks when all he did was to perform his duties as a defense counsel within the bounds of ethical standards. President Estrada may already be guilty in the eyes of the public, but that does not mean that he is not entitled to have a good lawyer who would see to it that whatever right is left of him would be amply protected. Even the basest criminal deserves a good defense lawyer to ensure him of his right to due process. And it is the duty of counsel to employ all possible trial techniques to ensure that his client's rights are protected. Lest it be forgotten—it is the duty of a lawyer, in the defense of a person accused of a crime, by all fair and honorable means, regardless of his personal opinion as to the guilt of the accused, to present every defense that the law permits, to the end that no person may be deprived of life or liberty, but by due process of law. [Rule 138, Sec. 20 (i)]

Besides, would we rather have the President convicted because he had lousy defense counsels, or would we rather have him convicted in spite of his having the best defense counsels?—**PETER M. MANZANO, Meer, Meer & Meer, 9th Floor, PLDT Bldg., Legaspi Street, Makati City**

Enough impeachment already!

COMMENTARY

Leandro V. Coronel

DID President Estrada come with a "no-exchange, no-return" tag? Or can we return him for being faulty merchandise?

The President's mouthpieces implore us to hold our judgment. Wait until you hear our counterevidence and counterwitnesses, Erap's spokesperson say in chorus. The impeachment trial isn't over yet, they plead.

But as they plead for time, they plot scenarios. They foist dirty tricks on us, including Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.'s impeachment court. They manufacture "evidence" to counter the prosecution's solid charges against Mr. Estrada. They object and object, as if the world will run out of objections tomorrow.

The goal is delay the trial so ways and means can be found to counter the prosecution witnesses' testimony. The objective is to sweep away the debris from the bombshells exploded in the Senate courtroom. The goal is to douse the spreading fire before it turns into an uncontrollable conflagration. The objective is to spray fire retardant on an increasingly hot and damning impeachment process. The goal is to douse cold water on an increasingly hot and angry public.

The goal is to save Erap's ass.

Is it really early days to come to a conclusion? Is it really early days to condemn Erap to political hell? Isn't the evidence so far overwhelming enough? Haven't we had enough of this trial, which the defense tries to pervert with their failed Perry Mason antics?

Haven't the witnesses so far overcome the bogus folksy style of Erap lawyer Estelito Mendoza and the Mason wannabe Fortun brothers?

Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's allegations are too detailed to be dismissed, even coming from a confessed crook. Would banker Clarissa Ocampo risk the downfall of her bank, owned by an Erap friend, by faking her testimony? What about the unsinkable Emma Lim? She was simply unshakable.

(Mendoza, supposedly the king of Filipino trial lawyers and said to hold several Supreme Court justices by the nuts, will otherwise be remembered as not knowing iced tea is drunk, not eaten. And Sigfrid "Dirty Trick" Fortun, he'll forever have that middle name in legal circles. As Shakespeare would say, they were hoisted with their own petard.)

It's true, the trial isn't over. It's true, Erap deserves the benefit of the doubt until the trial has ended. Overwhelming and obvious as the evidence so far may be (even the Catholic bishops agree), the President is entitled to his defenders' presentation and countertestimony.

But if, as the evidence so far suggests, the President is guilty, then he should spare the nation further agony. If he's guilty, then he should resign. The trial, unprecedented as it is, is dividing the nation. It's leading the country to further ruin, with the economy going nowhere but further down. The nation has a lot of catching up to do with the rest of the developed world, and this political turmoil is keeping it from doing so.

In other countries where leaders put a premium on honor, the slightest evidence of wrongdoing or scandal is reason enough for them to resign. In countries where leaders care about the dignity of their people and nation, offending officials apologize to the nation and slink away to oblivion, or to prison. In Japan, leaders commit *hara-kiri* at the prospect of public disgrace from acts against public welfare and national interest.

But here, our officials don't care about honor, about putting the nation's interest over personal benefit. Here, our officials tough it out, using all means to get away with murder, so to speak. This is what's happening with Erap. His macho pride cannot accept the humiliation of losing his office, even though the evidence so far indicates his culpability.

Someone must prevail upon him to spare the nation further anguish. The tumult cause by Erap's impeachment is rending the country apart and leading it to ruin. The turmoil is shooing investors away and further bleeding the economy dry.

It appears First Lady Loi Ejercito doesn't have the will to tell her husband to give up. And Jinggoy, JV and the other sons of a batch of wives will not tell him, either. Nor would his mistresses want to tell him.

Then someone, like his lawyer Andres Narvasa or Mendoza, must whisper: "Mr. President, the evidence is too overwhelming, the public won't believe you're innocent. We've done our best, but the testimony is too damaging. It's time to quit."

If indeed Erap is guilty and Narvasa and Mendoza continue to find, worse manipulate, ways of getting him off the hook, the lawyers would be doing the country grave disservice.

The President wouldn't listen to his critics because he thinks they hate him. Why would he listen to Fidel Ramos or Cory Aquino or Jaime Cardinal Sin? He wouldn't spare a minute of his time for Raul Roco, Teofisto Guingona and others.

But he will listen to Dra. Loi or his mother, Doña Mary, or his siblings. But they're not about to tell him to raise his arms in surrender. (A personal note: one of the President's siblings is a respected former colleague of this writer. It's not without pain to write disapprovingly of the President for this reason. But the bottom line is that the people's interest supersedes personal relations. The evidence is overwhelming.)

For obvious reasons, his midnight cronies wouldn't tell him, either. But perhaps Danding Cojuangco or Lucio Tan, seized by a moment of patriotism, could tell him. He'll listen.

The nation is bleeding, the state's affairs are at a standstill, the public's welfare is being neglected. The President cannot govern effectively, nor govern at all. Narvasa, Mendoza, Cojuangco, Tan—one or all of them can persuade Erap to do the right thing. Enough already!

Leandro V. Coronel, formerly based in the United States, now lives and writes here.

Swift injustice

GOV. Luis "Chavit" Singson played mahjong with friends and the President of the Philippines—Joseph Ejercito Estrada. He did errands, collected *jueteng* money, handed cash and checks for him, among others, so much so that they became very close to each other.

At one point Singson got mad at the President and worked for his impeachment which began last Nov. 13, 2000. It is more than 1,000 hours since this masquerade ball started and nothing has been proven or established yet.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago allegedly saw anti-crime advocate Dante Jimenez and two scions of wealthy families, Bettina Aboitiz and Rosanna Fores stand up and give her provocative looks. In less than two hours, after complaining to the Chief Justice, the judgment was proclaimed (the three are permanently banned from attending the impeachment trial proceedings).

Without the benefit of a proper investigation (there is at least one witness who claimed they did not stand up), a judgement was made and handed down. Are these senators not above the law?—**NAME WITHHELD ON REQUEST**

Erratum

THE LAST paragraph of the sixth item of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's Jan. 16 column should have read: "By the way, readers wanted to know: when the President called banks and stockbrokers to raise the P1.2 billion needed to cover the BW float, in order to prevent a collapse of the stock market, as testified by Yasay, were funds of SSS and GSIS used?"

We regret the error.—**Ed.**

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

RACING against time, resident volunteers of Comasagua, El Salvador, carry the coffin of an earthquake victim after its identification by surviving kin to a mass grave for burial. AP

EL SALVADOR CRISIS

Earthquake death toll reaches 600

SAN SALVADOR—Thousands of Salvadorans slept in tents for a third night, as rescuers frantically looked for survivors in a neighborhood that was buried during a massive earthquake that took more than 600 lives and left hundreds missing.

"We're missing four (bodies)," Katty de Velasquez told reporters as she searched in a local cemetery for eight relatives who were inside two houses when a landslide Saturday buried hundreds of homes in Santa Tecla's Las Colinas neighborhood, near here.

On Monday, Velasquez said, they found one of her loved ones: "the body of my little granddaughter . . . Here she is in this little box."

Other grieving relatives at the cemetery outside the small town watched in horror as soldiers unceremoniously buried five black trash bags, filled with what a forensic doctor called "human fragments."

Authorities throughout El Salvador on Tuesday continued burying bodies in mass graves as the death toll from Saturday's earthquake rose nationwide to 609 dead and 2,375 injured, with hundreds more still missing and feared dead.

In the Santa Tecla area alone, at least 420 people lost their lives in the quake. Of them, 229 were killed by a quake-triggered landslide in Las Colinas.

Santa Tecla Mayor Oscar Ortiz said more than 2,000 people were still missing and feared dead in the neighborhood.

As aftershocks further jangled the nerves of survivors, President Francisco Flores appealed for calm. "The worst is over," he told a news conference on Monday.

But he said some of the hardest hit areas were still at risk. In all, 861 aftershocks were recorded two days after the temblor rocked Central America.

Most of the devastation was caused by landslides, according to Flores, who toured disaster-hit communities.

Earlier, Flores asked Colombia to donate 3,000 coffins.

Under sweltering heat, bodies recovered in Las Colinas were displayed for possible identification by relatives for only three or four hours, before they became too putrefied, forensic doctor Mario Colorado said.

"After that, we ship them to the cemetery in Santa Tecla," he said.

At an emergency shelter set up at a nearby open-air stadium, some 6,000 people were spending a third night under tents or makeshift shelters.

Many more slept in the streets, their few remaining belongings scattered around them, after losing their homes to Saturday's temblor that measured between 7.6 and 7.9 on the open-ended Richter scale. *AFP*

'Greed is behind disaster'

SAN SALVADOR—Environmental activists and local authorities in a town where a mountainside buried an entire neighborhood say deforestation—and greed—contributed to the disaster.

Long before the hill came crashing down on top of the Las Colinas neighborhood outside San Salvador, environmentalists had asked Congress—and municipal officials had asked the Supreme Court—to block the construction of mansions on the hillside, saying the trees there helped prevent landslides.

But Congress didn't respond, the Supreme Court last year denied the petition, and construction continued. Business boomed and several estates, complete with swimming pools and gatehouses, were built above the middle-class neighborhood.

Santa Tecla Mayor Oscar Ortiz said Monday that construction contributed to the landslide, and accused the constructors of putting the bottom line above human life.

"It was a simplistic vision with strictly monetary interests," he said. "What good does money do us if we're going to submit our children to something like this?"

Several businessmen believed to be involved in the companies denied any links to them Monday.

Hundreds of people were buried when the mountain gave way in Saturday's magnitude-7.6 earthquake, turning the neighborhood into a lake of dirt. *AP*

N. Korea forges ties with Netherlands

SEOUL—North Korea on Tuesday announced the establishment of diplomatic ties with the Netherlands in another sign that the impoverished country is emerging from isolation.

"Diplomatic relations were established between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of the Netherlands," said the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

The Netherlands follows Spain and Britain, which set up diplomatic ties with Pyongyang last year. Some other European countries have also announced their intention to set up ties with North Korea.

North Korea and the Netherlands agreed to open ties "at the level of ambassadors" during a series of talks in Hague, KCNA said.

"These talks were conducted following an exchange of letters between the ministers of foreign affairs of both countries on the establishment of diplomatic relations," it said.

The two sides expressed "the hope that the establishment of diplomatic relations would enable both countries to develop their bilateral links more effectively and would provide greater opportunities for exchange on issues of mutual interests and concern," KCNA said. *AFP*

Anson EMPORIUM
HOLIDAY PRIZES GALORE!
Get a chance to win ANSON EMPORIUM Gift Certificates and Appliances

KOLIN

KLN SERIES
- Cable Remote
- Very Quiet Powerful Compressor
- Drainless Operation
- 5 years Warranty on Compressor & Other Major Cooling Parts
- Available in 6400 & 7400 kj/hr models (7KLN & 8KLN)

BMW SERIES
- Micro Computer Fully Automatic Control
- Full Function Wireless & Cable Remote Controllers
- Built-in 3 Minute Time Delay for Compressor Protection
- Drainless Operation
- High Efficiency for Low Power Consumption
- Available in 6 Models: (7BMW, 8BMW, 10BMW, 12BMW, 15BMW, 21BMW, 28BMW)

SPLIT TYPE WALL MOUNTED
- Micro Computer Fully Automatic Control
- Full Function LCD Wireless Remote Control
- Built-in 3 Minute Time Delay for Compressor Protect
- Automatic Wide Angle Air Swing
- Sleep Temperature Set Back
- 5 years Warranty on Compressor & Other Major Cooling Parts
- Availble in 4 Models (11½B, 15B, 21B, 28B)

SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS PROMO PERIOD: NOVEMBER 15, 2000 - FEBRUARY 04, 2001 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1013 Series of 2000.

WE BEAT ANYBODY'S PRICE!
VISIT OUR BRANCHES AT:
•ANSON BLDG., AYALA CTR., A. ARNAIZ ST., MKTI CITY
Tel.s: 843-5042/44/46; 892-2208; 892-1372/92/95
LARGE ASSORTMENTS OF FURNITURE ITEMS AT THE BASEMENT
•ROBINSONS GALLERIA EDSA NODE LEVEL-3
Tels.: 632-9479; 632-9482 to 85
•3RD FLR., THE LANDMARK
Tels.; 810-9990 loc. 2105, 2107; 819-1513 to 14, 819-1354; 817-0241
•800 SALAZAR ST., BDO. MLA.
Tels.: 243-2097; 243-2101; 243-2092
CORPORATE & INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTS WELCOME!
Call: 819-0701; 819-1513; 819-1354; 843-5043; 845-3006 to 08

Anson EMPORIUM

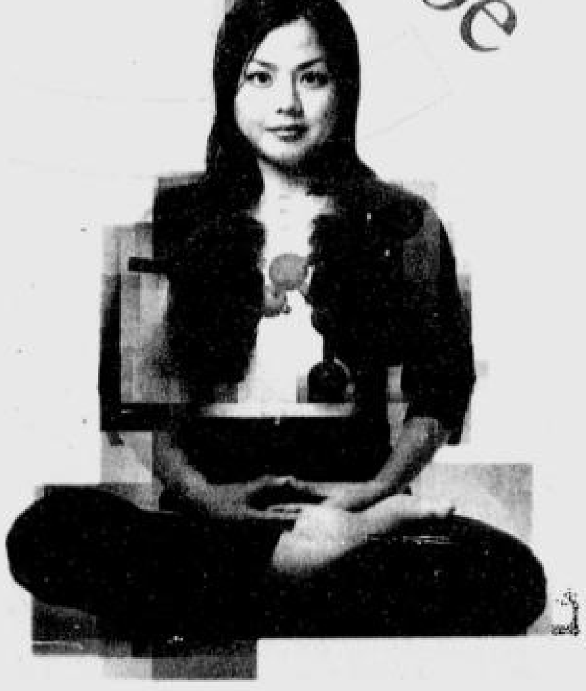
Attention: ALL MSI PAYROLL USERS
RE: Now, you can avail of our Millennium Edition with the new PHIC table for Premium Contribution rates effective January 2001

MSI Payroll Millennium Edition
Main features:
- Accommodates Weekly, Semi-Monthly or Monthly Pay Types for daily and/or monthly rate employees;
- Generates new BIR Form 1604CF (Alphalist Report Schedule 7.1, 7.3 and 7.4) in diskette format;
- Generates the latest gov't report (BIR, SSS, Pag-IBIG & PHIC) through hard-copy and/or diskette;
- With Year-to-Date module to allow user to enter previous payroll transactions;
- Security protection which limits the user's access to the system modules; and
- Facilitates payroll remittances by bank systems in transacting w/ some major banking institutions (optional).

MSI Personnel Information System
Main features:
- Maintains the employees' 201 files;
- Provides a table for pre-defined Memorandum, Employment Certificates, and Performance Evaluation Forms with Authorized Signatures;
- Provides data entry for:
  - SBR No., Pag-IBIG Fund & PhilHealth Bank Receipt No., SSS, Pag-IBIG & Medicare Remittances respectively
  - Qualified dependents and beneficiaries for SSS, PHIC and Health Insurance
- Generates Certificates for Employment, SSS, Pag-IBIG, PHIC and Loan Payment; and
- Generates History Reports for organization attended, seminar and training development, memorandum received, performance evaluation appraisal, etc....

MSI DTR
DAILY TIME RECORDING SYSTEM for WINDOWS
Main features:
- Keeps track of employee's attendance, absences, tardiness, undertime, and overtime records;
- Accommodates Flexible time schedule;
- Accommodates various types of shifts and workdays schedule defined by your company;
- Generates reports on employees' attendance status;
- Allows update on Shifts & Workdays of employees with various schedules in any given time; and
- Allows definition of maximum OT hours for employees.

Hurry!! Avail BIG Discount for the 3 in 1 MSI EasyPay Package!
METROSOFT
Seven (7) years of quality service to more than 900 companies
LG1 Cityland 9 Dela Rosa Condo., 7648 Dela Rosa St., Makati City Fax No.: 892-2795
Tel. Nos.: 892-2798 ; 894-1525 ; 892-2808 ; 894-1043 ; 892-4530/36 E-mail:msi@uplink.com.ph



The British Council

UK Education Fair 2001
19-20 January
Hotel Intercontinental Manila
Makati City

22 January
Marriott Hotel
Cebu City

10 AM to 7 PM

Free Admission

the best YOU can be
EDUCATION

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS:
BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY
THE LONDON INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Brought to you in cooperation with:
British Embassy Manila
BRITISH AIRWAYS
THAMES

For inquiries, contact
The British Council Education Information Service • G/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City 1605
Tel. Nos: (632) 9141011 to 14 • Fax No: (632) 9141020
Email: britishcouncil@britishcouncil.org.ph • Website: http://www.britishcouncil.org/philippines

EDUCATION

'CRUCIFIXION' REUTERS

A Bolivian leader of miners, Daniel Ordoñez (center), remains bound on a crucifix in the central area of La Paz, Bolivia, Jan. 15. The miner leader's act dramatizes the plight of the country's 40,000 miners who earn an average $94 a month. Bolivia is one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere with five out of eight Bolivians living in poverty.

Corruption probe spells trouble for China's No. 2

BEIJING—Two senior executives are under arrest and scores more are being questioned in a corruption probe at China's electric utility monopoly that has shaken the powerful company and tainted the nation's No. 2 communist leader.

Investigators have taken over offices inside the State Power Corp., a symbol of government economic might, and ordered corporate officials in for questioning, said executives in the power industry and the company. One of those arrested was caught just before fleeing the country, they said.

In a China now beset by multiplying corruption scandals, the affair stands out on two counts: Unlike many government-owned enterprises, the State Power Corp. makes money; and it is also a core of support for Li Peng, second in the Communist Party hierarchy. Two of his three children are employed by corporation subsidiaries and have working ties to those arrested.

Premier Zhu Rongji, a straight-talking reformer often at odds with the conservative Li, spoke combatively about the investigation at a leadership meeting last month, prompting President Jiang Zemin, the party chief, to intervene, a former government official with ties to top leaders said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

This month, the release overseas of documents exposing party debates over quashing the Tiananmen Square democracy protests further tarnished Li, who is already disliked for supporting the crackdown. Internet accounts have seeped into China, and party functionaries have chatted at work about the documents' grim portrayal of Li.

Adding to the controversy, victims of a $64-million pyramid scheme protested outside the Beijing government offices in November demanding Li meet them. They claimed Li's second son, his only child not involved with State Power, had ties to the scam's arrested chair—a charge confirmed by a party official involved in security work who asked not to be named. *AP*

Kuwait court bans women from voting

KUWAIT—Kuwait's highest court rejected a case Tuesday in which activists had pleaded for women to have the right to vote and run for office in this oil-rich state.

"The court has decided to reject the case," said Judge Abdullah al-Issa, president of the Constitutional Court, offering no immediate explanation.

Frustrated with the 50-seat legislature that voted down an emiri decree and a bill for suffrage in 1999, women activists and their male supporters took their case to courts.

In July, the highest tribunal refused to hear four of these cases on a technicality.

The case rejected Tuesday was filed by a Kuwaiti man, Adnan al-Issa. He sued the elections department for failing to register the names of women, including his wife, on voter's lists. An Election Challenges court referred his case to the Constitutional Court for a definitive ruling.

"I expected this ruling. The orientation of the whole state is fundamentalist and parliament has rejected suffrage before," al-Issa said after he and his lawyer heard the ruling in the high court chamber. A bewildered Farida al-Dashti said: "I don't know why it was rejected. I'm shocked. I was optimistic when I woke up this morning.''

Al-Dashti, a women's rights activist and lawyer, arrived moments after the ruling was read. Only al-Issa, his lawyer and reporters had been on hand for the ruling. *AP*

2 nabbed for gem smuggling

MOSCOW—Russian police Monday arrested a US national and his Russian accomplice at Moscow airport for allegedly trying to smuggle $100,000 worth of sapphires, an interior ministry spokesperson said.

The Russian citizen, a high-ranking official at the airport, tried to help the American get the 2,000 gemstones—weighing 1,368 carats—illegally into the country, Sergey Novoselov said at a news conference.

The two men were arrested Friday and charged with smuggling contraband on a large scale, which carries a penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

Novoselov said the two had been involved in trafficking gemstones from India for the last two years. The gemstones were then sold on the Russian black market. *AFP*

Peace talks canceled for day amid murder of Jewish settler

JERUSALEM—Israel canceled peace talks Monday and reimposed a total clampdown on the Gaza Strip following the murder of a Jewish settler in the Palestinian territories.

"The Israeli side asked to cancel the meeting that was supposed to be held this afternoon, even though the time is limited," the head of the Palestinian parliament Ahmed Qorei said.

"We consider this an Israeli escape from the negotiations and we hold them responsible for wasting time," Qorei said.

The two sides were to have picked up negotiations where they left off Saturday night after a meeting in Gaza City, presided over by former Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

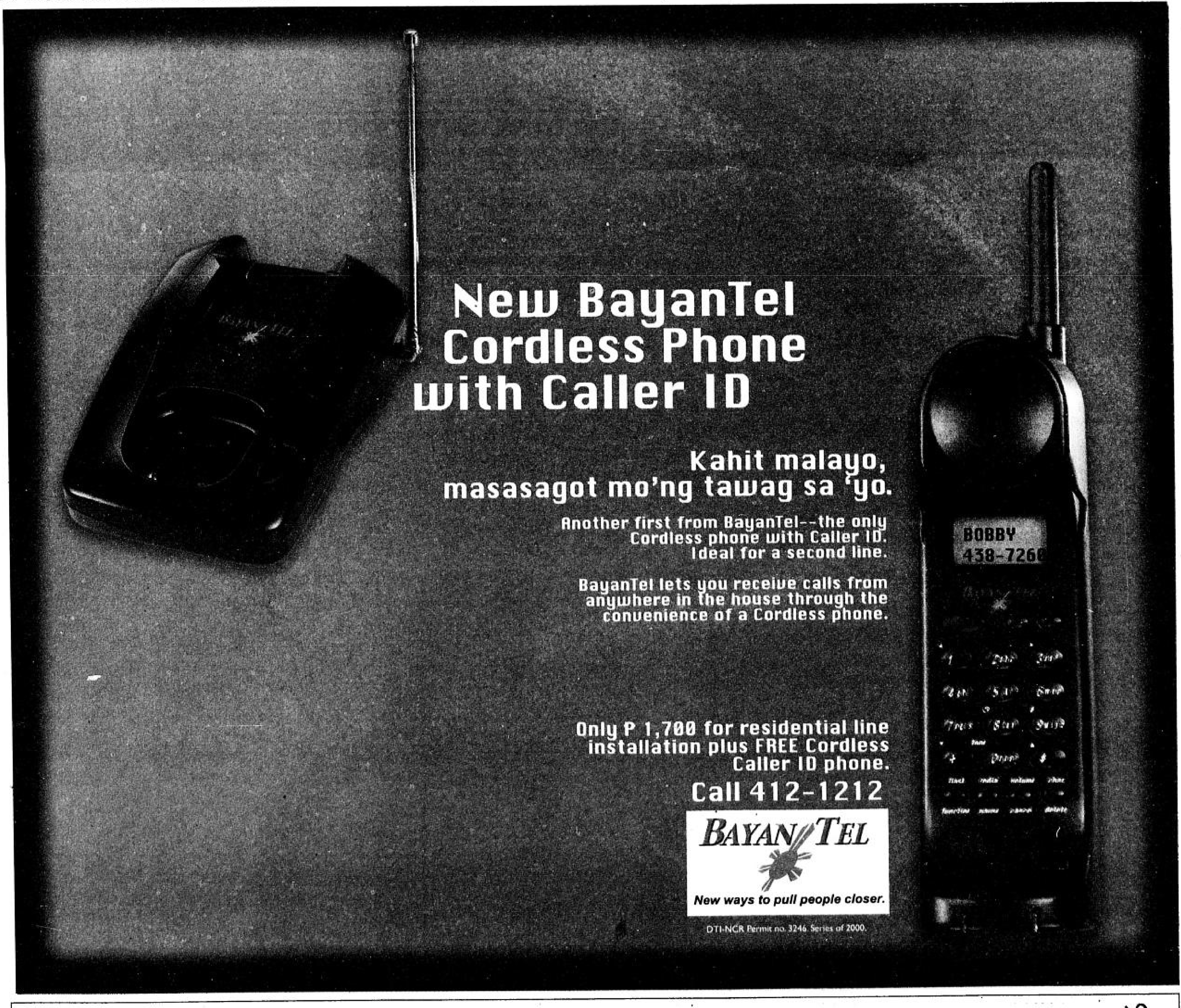
Israelis and Palestinians also called off until further notice a security meeting that would have included Israel's Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh, official sources said.

Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat said, "There are no plans for any meetings, political or security, after the Israeli side canceled the negotiating meeting."

But later, Israeli radio said the two sides agreed to hold political talks Tuesday between Qorei and Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben Ami.

The two are due to discuss a set of peace compromises proposed by US President Bill Clinton, who has lost almost all hope of concluding a peace deal before he leaves office in five days.

At a news conference in Damascus with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad called on President-elect George W. Bush "to revive the worn-out peace process and take on a new, more efficient role, in conformity with the principle of neutrality and non-alignment with Israel." *AFP*



New BayanTel Cordless Phone with Caller ID

Kahit malayo, masasagot mo'ng tawag sa 'yo.

Another first from BayanTel--the only Cordless phone with Caller ID. Ideal for a second line.

BayanTel lets you receive calls from anywhere in the house through the convenience of a Cordless phone.

Only P 1,700 for residential line installation plus FREE Cordless Caller ID phone.

Call 412-1212

BAYAN TEL
New ways to pull people closer.

DTI-NCR Permit no. 3246 Series of 2000.

PARAMOUNT GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION
15th & 16th Floors, Sage House
110 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City
E-Mail: insure@paramount.com.ph

PROTECT yourself against premises and operations exposure
with the Paramount Comprehensive General Liability Cover
GET IT NOW AT http://www.paramount.com.ph
For inquiries or for more information, please contact our marketing representatives at
750-5571 or 750-5985 to 86.

Insurance made easier!

We're No. 1 in Pickups.*

NISSAN FRONTIER
The Frontier of Pickups

*No.1 in the combined 4x2 & 4x4 Double Cab Compact Pickup Segment.
*No.1 in the 4x2 Double Cab Compact Pickup Segment.
Based on the official figures submitted by members of the Truck Manufacturer's Association for the year 2000.

NISSAN
Universal
Motors
Corporation

Exclusive assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles.
www.nissanecenter.com

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Death toll in Negros floods rises to 6

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The death toll from floods that hit three northern cities in Negros Occidental on Monday has gone up to six.

The number of evacuees also increased to 25,440 after the floods destroyed 87 houses and damaged 848 others in the cities of Victorias, Silay and Talisay, according to the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO).

As of yesterday afternoon, most of the evacuees had returned to their homes after the floodwaters had already subsided.

The three additional fatalities reported yesterday were identified as Amy Cantanilla, 36; Sergio Gonzaga, 64 and Salvador Delima, all of Silay City.

Cantanilla was missing on Monday when her house was washed away by the floods. Her body was found among nipa plants near Antonio Luna Street, Silay, yesterday morning, said Supt. Ricardo de La Paz, Silay police chief.

Gonzaga died of a stroke, reports said. Delima drowned inside his house because he refused to be rescued in Silay City, authorities said.

Antique folk rally out of fear trash would destroy Semirara

BY HAZEL P. VILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—About 3,500 residents of Antique converged at the Evelio B. Javier Freedom Park at around 8 a.m. to express their opposition to plans to dump Metro Manila's garbage on Semirara.

The protesters came from different walks of life. There were bankers, architects, students, sidewalk vendors as well as priests and nuns.

At least two schools suspended classes yesterday morning to allow their students to attend the rally.

The Sagip Semirara, Sagip Boracay, a multi-sectoral group from Boracay Island, Aklan, however, failed to arrive at the rally on time.

The Boracay delegation of 15 buses arrived here at noon because strong waves between Boracay to Caticlan prevented them from leaving earlier for their scheduled protest caravan at 3 a.m.

It took about six hours for the group to arrive at San Jose, which is about 370 kilometers from Caticlan.

Some 300 resort owners, divers, tricycle drivers, *balut* vendors, *masahistas* and market vendors—some of them still bringing their wares—trooped to the freedom park to eat lunch and then proceeded to radio station dyKA for a symposium.

During the rally, Gideon Javier, leader of the United Antiqueños, revealed plans to kick out Semirara Coal Corp. from the island after it becomes definite that the landfill would no longer push through.

"In the following months, let us drive out those Consunjis (from Semirara Island). They might soon own Antique," said Javier, drawing cheers from the crowd.

He was referring to the Consunjis of the DMCI Holdings Inc. that owns SCC, the single-biggest employer on Semirara. The SCC has been mining coal on Semirara for more than 20 years.

The DMCI is the partner of R-2 Builders in the operation of a landfill project on the island where Metro Manila's garbage was to be dumped.

The leadership of the Sagip Semirara, Sagip Boracay multisectoral group also supported Javier's plans to kick out the SCC.

"We support the United Antiqueños in kicking out Semirara Coal because they have done too much damage to the island," said Socorro Ruchanie Gadon, spokesperson of the Boracay group.

Continued mining activities on Semirara will only worsen water pollution in the area and kill marine life, said Jasmin Sakay, owner of Waling-Waling Beach Resort and member of the Boracay Foundation Inc.

"What can we do? They (Semirara Coal Corp.) are already there. How can they cancel the contract?" said Antique Gov. Exequiel Javier, uncle of Gideon, on plans to kick out the SCC.

He told the INQUIRER that as long as all environmental laws are complied with and the company hires Antiqueños, the SCC can stay.

The SCC, he said, still owes the province of Antique some P100 million in taxes.

Governor Javier also denied claims that he and other Antique officials misled Robert Aventajado, presidential adviser on flagship projects, into believing that they supported the landfill project on Semirara.

He said Aventajado mistook the Certificate of Willingness he issued in March as an approval of the project.

"The (Metro Manila Development Authority) came asking for the Certificate of Willingness for the proposal, but not the project. The certificate was conditional in that they have to comply with requirements like consultations and permits," said Governor Javier.

He added that he "never approached Aventajado."

Vice mayor slain inside church

LINGIG, Surigao del Sur—This town's vice mayor, Amerosin Onsing, was gunned down while he was attending Mass inside the Holy Child Parish Church early Sunday.

Onsing, a former town mayor, was considered to be the strongest candidate for mayor of the town in the coming May elections.

Ester, the victim's wife, was standing beside the vice mayor when she heard a gunshot. She later learned that it was her husband who was shot.

"His death serves as (a) sacrifice for Lingig's bright future," Isagani Onsing, the vice mayor's brother, said.

Isagani said the killing was politically motivated. Police, however, are still investigating the killing. ***Joe Climaco, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

LEGAL NOTICE

- Babcock & Wilcox Bankruptcy -

If you currently suffer from asbestos-related injury and you worked at sites with commercial boilers, you must act now to preserve your rights.

The Last Day to File Claims is July 30, 2001 (the "Bar Date")

The Babcock & Wilcox Company and certain subsidiaries ("B&W") have filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. As part of the bankruptcy process, B&W must alert those who have current Asbestos Personal Injury Claims, as well as Derivative Asbestos Claims or Asbestos Property Damage Claims. You must file these claims by the Bar Date.

This notice does not involve and does not bar future claims for asbestos injuries that are not evident as of the Bar Date.

B&W purchased asbestos from manufacturers and the material was used many years ago as insulation to protect people and equipment from high temperatures inside industrial, utility and marine boiler systems. Although government regulations have required low exposure thresholds for asbestos since the early 1970's, you, your family or your heirs may have a claim against B&W relating to asbestos exposure from a worksite or ship, among others, that had a B&W boiler system, or involving other B&W asbestos-related components.

To preserve your claim against B&W, you must file a claim to be received by July 30, 2001.* If you do not file a claim, you will lose your right to bring such a claim against B&W in the future. Filing a claim does not necessarily entitle you to compensation.

For more information, or to receive a long form notice and claim form, mail the coupon below to the local Philippines address, visit the website at **www.bwbardate.com** or call the USA at **+1-507-333-4318.**

Please send me a long form notice and claim form.

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

____

City/Municipality ____________________

____________ Postal Code ____________

Province ____________________

Country ____________________

Mail this request to the Babcock & Wilcox Claims Agent at:

c/o TNT International Mail
Babcock & Wilcox
PO Box 8224
Parañaque CPO
1700 Parañaque City
Philippines

***If you previously settled an asbestos claim with B&W before the bankruptcy, but have not yet been paid, you must still file a claim, AND YOUR CLAIM IS DUE EARLIER. Please obtain a long form notice for more information.**

There are several types of claims subject to the Bar Date. Complete descriptions of these claims as well as more details about the bankruptcy may be found in the long form notice and claim form that is available at the website, by mailing the coupon, or by calling the phone number. The foregoing and following is only a summary.

Asbestos Personal Injury Claims are those involving personal injuries or damages related to asbestos exposure associated with equipment in any way marketed by B&W, including most notably boiler systems. Derivative Asbestos Claims generally involve claims related to someone else's asbestos exposure and include cross-claims, contribution claims, subrogation claims, reimbursement or indemnity claims, etc. Asbestos Property Damage Claims relate for example to diminution of value or economic loss, etc., caused by asbestos associated with equipment in any way marketed by B&W. The Bar Date also involves claims related to nuclear fuel processing facilities located in Apollo, Pennsylvania, and Parks Township, Pennsylvania, as separately outlined in other notices and the long form notice and claim package.

In order to file any asbestos claim, an injury must be currently manifested which generally means that some evidence of an asbestos-related injury is evident, showing, diagnosed, or otherwise known. If you have no current manifestation of an injury you may not have a claim that is subject to the Bar Date, and you may be entitled to file such valid claims at an appropriate time in the future.

The Chapter 11 filing by The Babcock & Wilcox Company includes its subsidiaries Americon, Inc., Babcock & Wilcox Construction Company, Inc., and Diamond Power International, Inc. Because this is a voluntary Chapter 11 filing and B&W remains solvent, there is no Bar Date against unsecured creditors. Accordingly, commercial creditors and suppliers need take no action. Also, all employee wages, salaries, benefits and retiree benefits are unaffected and protected.

Guide abandons B'desh nationals

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Forty-nine Bangladesh nationals, who claimed that their tourist guide abandoned them, have asked the government to help them return to their country.

Maj. Orlando de Leon, Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force Mindanao Area 2 officer in charge, said they are now tracking down a certain Benjie, believed to be the tourist guide.

The 49 Bangladesh nationals, all males, are temporarily housed at the PNP-Camp Batalla mosque until consular officer Omar Farouk of Bangladesh "can process all their traveling documents for their return to their country."

Farouk said "his people" were merely "exploring your country, they want to see places and possibly to see prospects (for) investments. They want to engage in business here. (There was) no illegal thing perpetrated, nothing."

Mohammad Masudrana, 29, of Dahaka, Bangladesh, said they were in a tour package.

"We are tourists, we want to see places, beautiful spots in the Philippines, like Manila. What we want is to go back to our country Bangladesh. We are tired," Masudrana said.

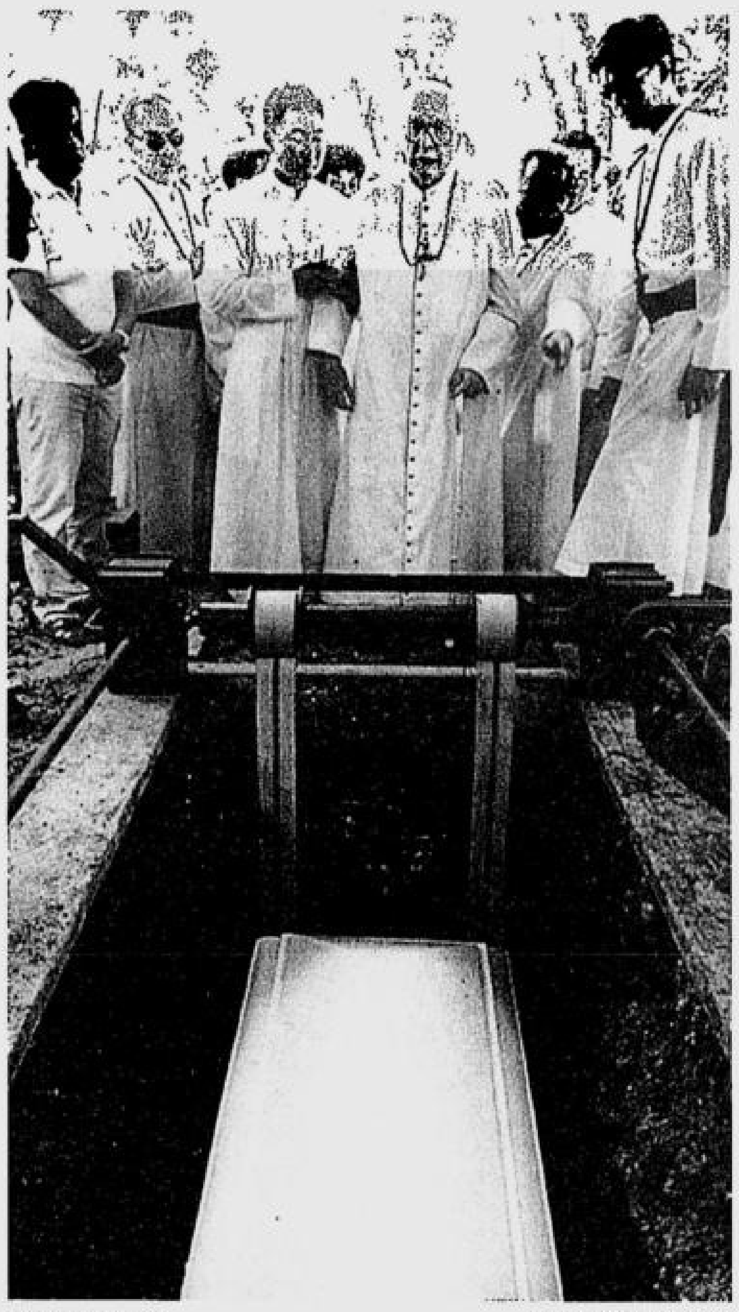
He said they left Bangladesh on Nov. 16 and arrived in Manila in Nov. 19.

"A Filipino named Benjie met us at the airport and we were brought to the mountains of Davao for two weeks. Then we were brought to Bubuan Island in Basilan for 27 days," Masudrana said.

Benjie allegedly left the 49 foreigners in Tugbabas Island in Sulu and promised to fetch them after two days. "We were there for eight days waiting, but he did not come back. We had no food, no money, we just want to go home," Masudrana said.

A certain Gloria Hadjulani of Tugbabas Island, facilitated their travel to Jolo and Zamboanga City.

She also coordinated with the immigration officials. ***Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



LAST RITES GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

Goodbyes are often unsavory events, especially if they are for someone who won't return. Apostolic Nuncio Antonio Franco (middle) presides over one such sad event—the burial recently of slain priest Benjie Inocencio in Odin Sinsuat town in Maguindanao.

NPA says Tarlac rebs victims of 'overkill'

BY RONALDO DIZON AND TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

STA. IGNACIA, Tarlac—The New People's Army in Tarlac described the Monday encounter between NPA rebels and government soldiers in Barangay San Vicente here as an "overkill" and an attempt to impress President Estrada, who visited Concepcion town Tuesday.

At least 14 NPA rebels were killed in a more than two-hour firefight in San Vicente, a remote upland village here, 45 kilometers northwest of Tarlac City.

"The military and the police are trying to impress President Estrada that's why they killed our comrades in cold blood," a source from the communist movement said.

"It was an overkill," the source added, stressing that most of the slain rebels suffered bullet wounds in their heads. "They made sure that they were dead."

Serafin Magdiwang, spokesperson of the NPA command in Tarlac, said they would issue an official statement soon after conducting their investigation of the clash.

In Pampanga, Chief Supt. Roberto Calinisan, Central Luzon police director, said Monday's clash and the renewed counter-insurgency campaign in Tarlac and Pampanga did not intend to weaken leftist groups based in the bailiwick of former President Aquino and Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Calinisan made this explanation as the INQUIRER asked how the Monday clash was related to a destabilization plot that the police claimed the Communist Party of the Philippines and its legal fronts would stage regardless of the result of the impeachment trial.

"The offensives (of the Army and the police) have nothing to do with the anti-Estrada movement," he said. "Communist rebels are extortionists and this crime has to stop."

The clash occurred on Monday, a day before Mr. Estrada visited Concepcion.

A Jan. 4 briefing paper of Camp Olivas on crimes and insurgency in the region noted that the CPP and its splinter group, the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines, continue to be the "primary threats" to the peace and order situation in Central Luzon.

In particular, the paper singled out the CPP and its legal fronts as "riding" on the "jueteng" exposé and that their members from Pampanga and Tarlac comprised the bulk of protesters in rallies against Mr. Estrada.

Plan to transfer Army camp scares officials

LUCENA CITY—Quezon officials have expressed apprehension over a plan to transfer the Armed Forces' Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) headquarters based in this city, saying the move would expose some areas of the province to communist attacks.

"I share the apprehension of most of the local executives in Quezon on the impending transfer of (the) Solcom headquarters (when) the New People's Army is stepping up its (attacks) in the province," Gov. Wilfrido Enverga told the INQUIRER.

Enverga said he already talked with Solcom authorities to inform them of the officials' apprehension.

Maj. Gen. Jose Lachica, Solcom chief, said the planned merging of the Solcom based in Camp General Nakar here with the Northern Luzon Command based in Tarlac is part of the AFP modernization program.

"This is to provide the AFP with a lean and mean force, aside from (giving it) more flexibility . . ." he said.

The Solcom, after the merger of the two camps, would be called the Joint Task Force for Southern Luzon. Lachica said the merged command would be called the North Command, which will be the main headquarters of the entire armed forces in Luzon.

"I . . . appealed to Solcom officials not to proceed with the plan during this time because of the . . . insurgency . . . not only in Quezon but also in neighboring areas," the governor said.

Local government officials expressed belief that the Solcom headquarters in the province is a deterrent to communist attacks.

Some said guerrillas are able to launch attacks despite the presence of the military camp. "What more if they (Solcom headquarters) would be transferred? What will (prevent) the NPA from lording it over (the province) again? Nothing. The rebels will just attack and attack because they will be free to do so," an official in the Bondoc Peninsula said.

Last month, four major tactical offensives in several parts of the province were staged by the NPA, which still holds captive a police officer and an Army major. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Dads scold phone firm exec for 'forgetting' charges

BY JANI ARNAIZ
PDI Visayas Bureau

MAASIN CITY—The city council scolded an official of a cellular company for backtracking on his allegations that a councilor demanded P20,000 in exchange for facilitating permits for the construction of a transmission tower.

Jose Elmer Obus, Islacom area sales manager for the Visayas, got the ire of the councilors after he denied accusing Councilor Royen Segovia of extortion.

The denial was made during a council session on Jan. 11.

Mayor Damian Mercado formed the committee last month after Obus told Vice Mayor Maloney Samaco and Councilor Crispin Arong that Segovia asked for P20,000 to facilitate Islacom's application to put up a cell site in the city.

Obus alleged that the amount would be divided among the committee members whom he identified as Councilors Benito Ozon, Catalino Laraga, Lupo Kirong and Lucita Abiera.

The councilors denied any knowledge of the deal. Oson and Abiera were also not members of the committee.

Keep The Good Memories More Vivid And Lasting!
ONLY P700
We'll transfer them from Beta, VHS, Video 8, & VHS-C
To VIDEO CD
For special occasions like weddings, baptismal, birthdays and corporate videos like product demos, company profile and audio-visual presentation.
Free Pick-Up And Delivery Within Metro Manila
DataKeep Technologies
☎ 330-5942 • 365-3025
366-2177 • 324-1891

ROUNDUP

CHR launches bid vs Cafgu

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The Commission on Human Rights and human rights organizations have launched a signature campaign to oppose the deployment of Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgus) to Cagayan Valley. The campaign came as CHR officials noted a resurgence of alleged military atrocities in the region. Abe Almirol, Karapatan–Cagayan Valley deputy secretary general, said the drive aims to raise a million signatures from communities, schools, churches, organizations and local governments. ***Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Retiree centers launched

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Civil Service Commission is paying tribute to aging professionals who have served the government by establishing Retirees Senior Volunteer Professional Centers (RSVPC) that would cater to their needs. CSC Chair Corazon Alma de Leon said they put up the centers in various towns and provinces where government retirees can use their talents and skills to help the community. "We want to eliminate the thought that (government retirees) are just waiting for their deaths. We want to prolong their lives," De Leon said during the induction ceremony of RSVPC officers in Cagayan, Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya. ***Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Comelec office ransacked

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The Commission on Elections office in Tarlac City was ransacked by unidentified men who took sets of election documents on Jan. 8. Angelito Domingo, assistant election officer of Tarlac City, told police that several precinct-mapping forms were missing.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Trader shot dead

CABANATUAN CITY—A defeated mayoral candidate and businessman in Gapan, Nueva Ecija, was shot and killed on Jan. 9 by a lone gunman who was riding on a motorcycle with another man along the Maharlika Highway here. Police said Cesar Velayo, 48, was hit once in the chest and died while being taken to a hospital here. Velayo was driving his Toyota Hilux on his way to his appliance store when the motorcycle-riding men sidled up to his vehicle and one of them shot him at close range.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Fish shelters put up

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Fishery officials in the Ilocos will establish 50 *payaos* (fish shelters) starting this month in seas off the Ilocos region from Infanta, Pangasinan, to Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, as a measure to offset the effects of the El Niño phenomenon this year. Nestor Domenden, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources regional director, said fish shelters consisting mainly of floating steel drums will be anchored to the bottom of the sea at a depth of 1,500 feet and will be placed 15 kilometers from the seashore. Costing P70,000 each, the *payaos* will also serve as markers defining the extent of municipal fishing grounds. ***Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Flood gauges installed

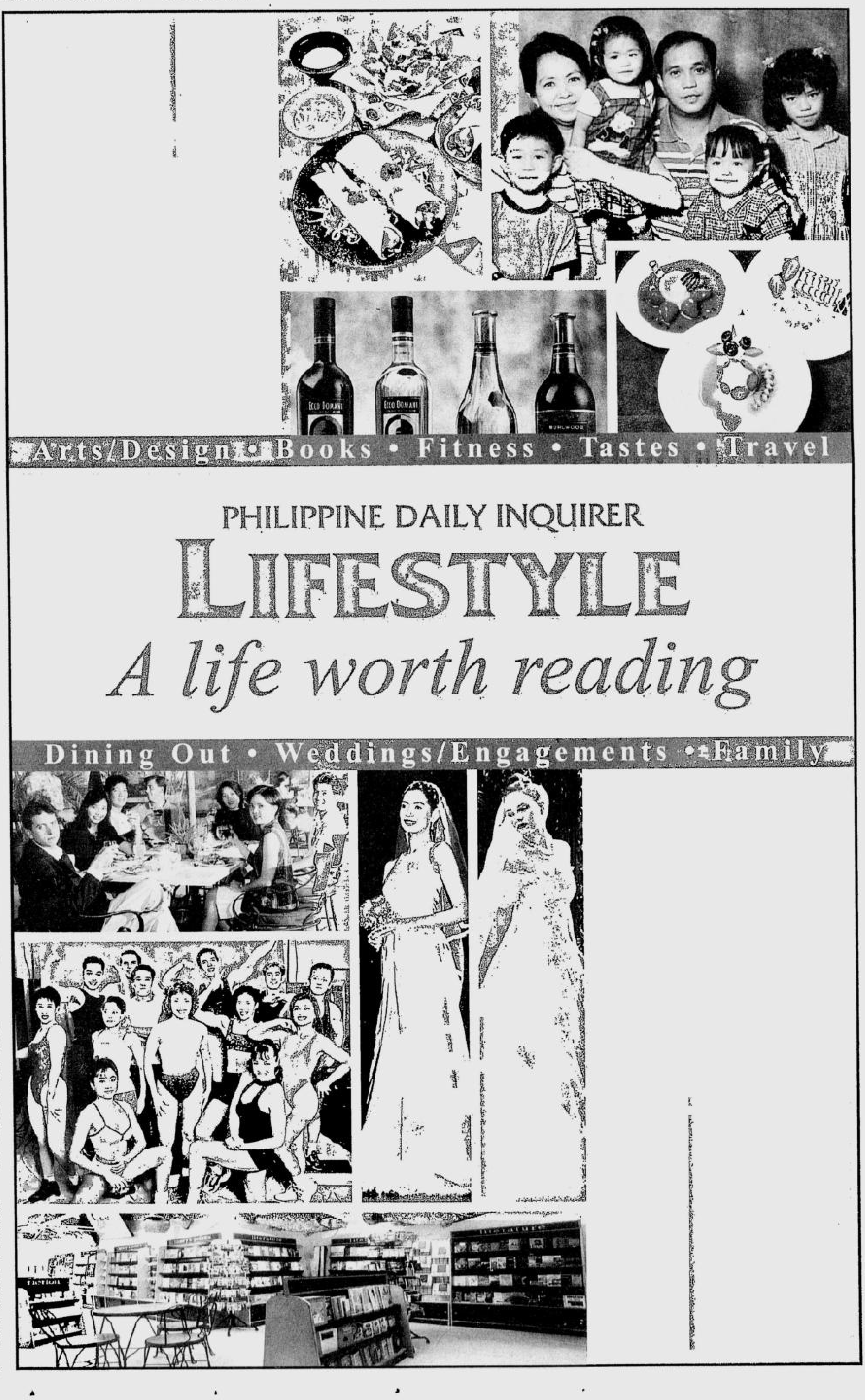
LEGAZPI CITY—Flood-measuring gadgets have been installed in several towns in the Bicol region. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said gauging stations have been installed in the municipalities of Bato, Buhi, Camaligan, Sipocot and Ocampo in Camarines Sur and Ligao in Albay. The newly installed stations have been used in determining water levels and rainfall during typhoons Reming and Seniang that brought flood to 15 towns in Bicol.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cops beat up rape suspect

TABACO, Albay—A man accused of raping a 10-year-old girl thrice tried to escape last week but policemen alerted by bystanders caught up with him and beat him up. Suspect Ernesto Bonagua, 28, a father of two and resident of Barangay Tayhi in this town, was almost knocked unconscious by slaps and punches he took from policemen who chased him. With his hands handcuffed in the back and locked to the patrol car with another handcuff, the suspect was hauled to the district jail like an animal, witnesses said. Bonagua admitted he raped the victim.

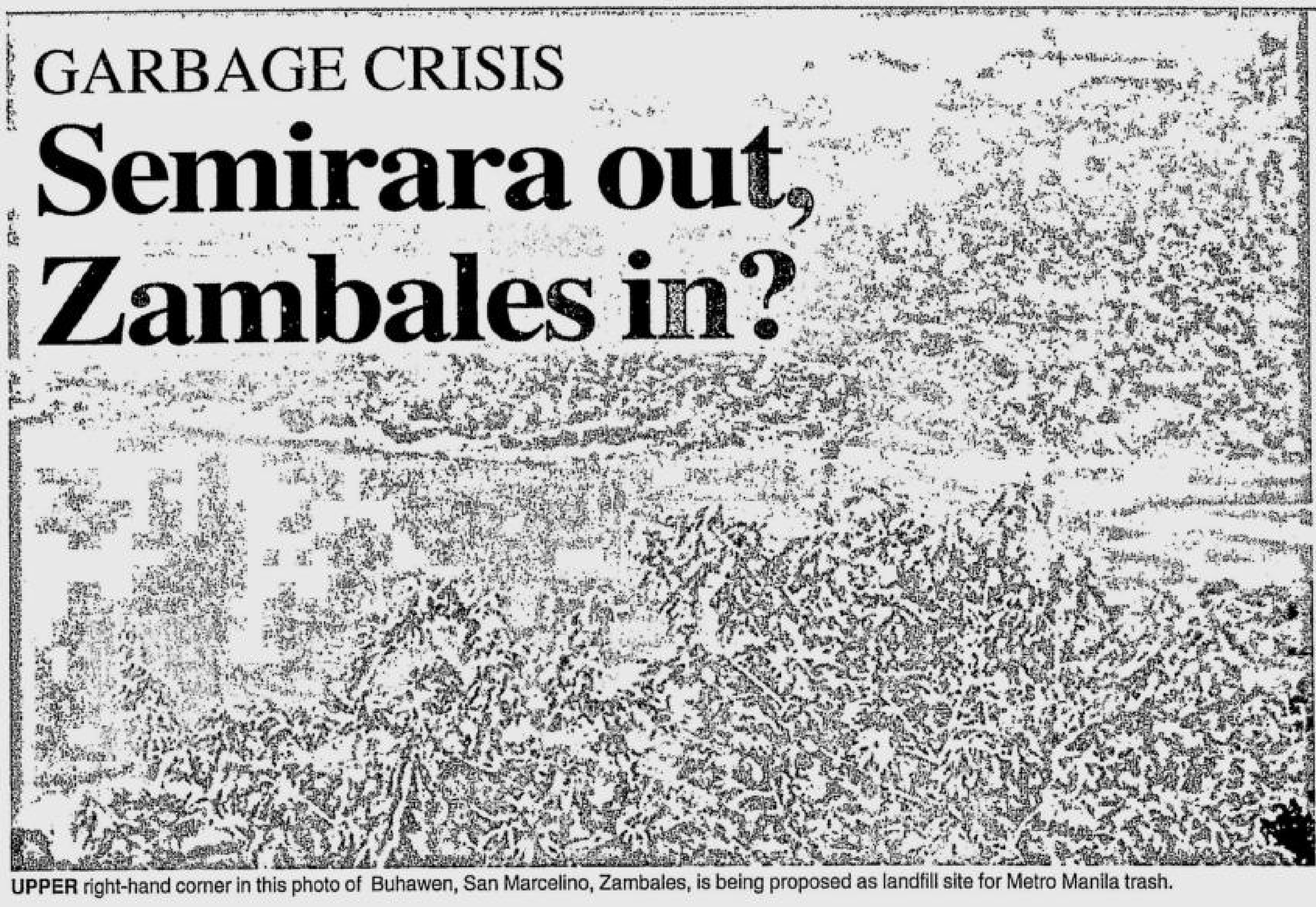
Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau


Arts/Design • Books • Fitness • Tastes • Travel
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
A life worth reading
Dining Out • Weddings/Engagements • Family

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ▪ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

GARBAGE CRISIS

Semirara out, Zambales in?



UPPER right-hand corner in this photo of Buhawen, San Marcelino, Zambales, is being proposed as landfill site for Metro Manila trash.

BY TONETTE OREJAS
Zambales

CONFUSION, helplessness and anger pervade Zambales residents, all because they have been getting mixed signals.

In December, Presidential Adviser on Flagship Projects Robert Aventajado and Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Jejomar Binay announced that the two new dumps of Metro Manila's garbage would be on Semirara Island off Antique and in San Marcelino, Zambales. Local officials claimed otherwise.

PURIFICACION Joaquin said residents of Barangay Buhawen in San Marcelino, Zambales, are divided over a plan of Dizon Copper-Silver Mines Inc. (DCSMI) to build a sanitary landfill in a mining area that was shut down by the company and Benguet Corp. in 1997.

The landfill is 6 km from the mountain village and 20 km from the town proper. It is about 170 km from Metro Manila.

"Many people want it because there have been no jobs, no electricity and no free schooling since the mines closed. Many also don't want it. I don't know," Joaquin, a health worker in Buhawen, said.

"We can't do anything anyway if the government wants it. We are only small people."

The determination of the government in 1996 to finish the Masinloc geothermal plant despite protests was a lesson in the futility of fighting state-sponsored projects, according to Edgardo Dueñas, a barangay councilman.

But the villagers do not want the landfill, said Fr. Ted Camat, San Marcelino parish priest from 1992 to 1997.

Camat said the project might pollute the air and the risk of waste contamination is high because a lake and three rivers drain out to the South China Sea on a path that extends all the way to Pangasinan and the Ilocos provinces.

The priest said he and the other villagers learned about the project only in 1999 when DCSMI was planning to build a road toward the Kaline pit, now a deep crater from where the two companies had extracted gold and copper since 1978 through open-pit mining.

Dueñas said that during three consultations, even the Aetas, who consider the Zambales range an ancestral abode, expressed worries to Woodward Clyde, DCSMI consulting firm, about the effects of the garbage to their farms.

A proposal to include a compost pit for fertilizers in the project convinced the Aetas, he said.

Rep. Antonio Diaz (Zambales) was more blunt. "Aventajado is hiding something. There's secrecy in this project (San Marcelino landfill)," he said.

Aventajado, he claimed, has not answered his letters seeking confirmation or denial, not only of the Buhawen landfill but also of another similar facility in Barangay Silangin or Barangay Pundaquit in San Antonio town.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo told him about the proposed landfills, Diaz said.

"Tong (Payumo) told me that garbage would be hauled from Metro Manila through barges to Abucay (Bataan). The trucks would travel through Batiawan (mountain boundary of Floridablanca, Pampanga and Subic, Zambales) all the way to the Dizon mines," he said.

Opposition

Aventajado, according to a Dec. 1 INQUIRER report, announced that two new dumps for Metro Manila's garbage would be in Semirara and San Marcelino. The Metro Mayors Council, the MMDA's policy-making body, has agreed to the plan, he said.

He explained that although transporting waste to these dumps would be quite expensive, it was the only viable solution to avert a major garbage crisis following the closure of the San Mateo sanitary landfill in Rizal.

The landfill was closed on Dec. 31, but its reopening was ordered by President Estrada on Jan. 11.

Binay, in the INQUIRER report, said the officials of San Marcelino and Semirara were the ones who offered the use of these areas to accommodate Metro Manila's garbage.

In September last year, Pateros Mayor Jose Capco, MMC chair, announced the use of the Dizon mines as a "temporary garbage storage site."

Capco also reportedly said DCSMI was one of two selected bidders among seven companies that offered to build an alternative dump for Metro Manila's trash.

But the Zambales provincial board adopted a resolution as early as August last year, "strongly opposing the establishment in San Marcelino and San Antonio, Zambales, of a landfill and/or establishment of any solid waste disposal project of other localities outside of this province."

The board noted a possible violation of the Local Government Code since the landfill project was still being bid out before consultations were held.

For still unknown reasons, it took Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay almost two months to sign the resolution.

The board said it was "concerned with the diseases and the possible contamination of potable water of the province brought by this landfill project that will endanger the health of the people."

Early last year, Magsaysay indicated support for the San Antonio landfill.

"In the event that you win the bidding and the project is awarded, then the province is willing to look for a suitable site for this project," he said in a letter to the proponent, FLB-Kabukiran-BTI WIN.

Diaz said it was puzzling why Aventajado and the MMDA officials claimed local support for the proposed Zambales landfills when the Task Force Subic Special Economic Zone had also expressed its opposition to these projects in September last year.

The task force was formed to study the feasibility of the World Bank-funded Pamatawan water project.

"The landfill's leachate or polluted water from the waste could contaminate the area's groundwater," a news release from the Media Affairs Service of the House of Representatives quoted Jovito Manueling of the Environmental Management Bureau as saying.

The task force met to discuss the effects of the San Marcelino landfill on the water project on which the freeport would rely for the next 30 years.

Local support

Out of 18 villages in San Marcelino, it was only the host village of Buhawen, through the barangay council, that endorsed the project.

Dueñas said the council approved the resolution in April last year or after consultations were held. The council, he added, did not receive any pressure or favor from the mayor, the governor and the DCSMI officials.

The people of Buhawen are former mine workers who used to enjoy the support of the company. A one-hectare housing area in the village was donated by DCSMI, Dueñas said.

The company also built the rugged roads. After DCSMI suspended mining operations in 1997 when the prices of minerals dropped, Buhawen's population sharply declined to a little more than 700 from some 8,000 during the boom years.

The few who remained were not only jobless. They no longer enjoy electricity, education, health and recreation benefits.

The 1991 eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo, 15 km north of the village, reduced the chances of DCSMI to recover its losses. It also doomed the village to almost 10 years of disaster, Dueñas said.

The original village, including the church, public market and houses, is now submerged under the Mapanuepe Lake, which was formed when lahar changed the course of water from the Mapanuepe, Marella and Sto. Tomas rivers.

"We want to enjoy the benefits again," Dueñas said.

Not a 'typical' UP law grad

TOMORROW, Olongapo City will bury one of its distinguished sons, lawyer Ferdinand "Ferdie" Aristorenas, an original volunteer and one of the young bright boys of former Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Richard Gordon.

ARISTORENAS

Ferdie succumbed to an aneurysm that rendered him brain-dead almost immediately after it treacherously struck on Jan. 12. He was 39 years old.

He was not a "typical" graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Law, per the definition given by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. He left a lucrative law practice with Carpio Villaraza and Cruz law offices, where he was a rising star, to join the SBMA in 1993.

At 32, Ferdie opted to use his legal skills to join the ranks of young volunteers in making the Subic Bay Freeport one of the most attractive investment havens in the country.

This simple, unassuming man forged multimillion-dollar deals, negotiated with the World Bank, met with world leaders and big business honchos and, at the end of the day, went home to his wife and mother; his idea of stress relief was reading and tending his garden.

Not many people knew what Ferdie has accomplished. He may be very be the epitome of the "unsung hero." His accomplishments as Gordon's chief operating officer and contributions to the growth of Subic will make graduates from UP and the Ateneo de Manila, where he took up his law studies and high school, proud to be alumni of those schools.

Ferdie served as head of the SBMA legal department from 1992 to 1996, and was largely responsible for the drafting of huge SBMA contracts.

Passion for books

Among these are the Houston-based Coastal Petroleum's lease agreement for the former US Navy petroleum oil tank farm, the air operating agreement of Memphis courier giant Federal Express, the hotel and casino contract of Malaysian Genting Berhad, the joint ventures agreements of Subic Telecom, Subic Water that upgraded utility services in the freeport to world-class standards; and two industrial parks that are now filled for the Taiwanese and Japanese investors, including Acer's largest computer manufacturing company outside of Taiwan.

Even as a student, Ferdie remained uncomplicated, in spite of his potentials and academic prowess. His passion for books was unparalleled. According to his batchmates in the Upsilon Sigma Phi, he was the only person around who could actually write with Tolkien alphabet.

And although Harry Potter is the order of the day, his tremendous passion for the 11 characters in the "Hobbit," "Lord of the Rings," "Two Towers" and "Return of the King" never waned.

His writing skills were always put to use. Whenever there was some political statement that his fraternity had to issue or propaganda to emphasize, Ferdie was there to say it all. His language was crafted with passion, his tenor always appropriate for the occasion.

One of the Upsilon batchmates, lawyer Juan Buted, described Ferdie's sense of spirituality as unorthodox for someone who had been under the tutelage of the Jesuits.

"Ferdie was unabashedly cynical on the outside but deeply compassionate, religious and generous on the inside," said Buted.

Ferdie's classmates at the UP College of Law also have nothing but good things to say about him. The yearbook of the Class of 1987 describe him as "brilliant."

According to a classmate and close friend, lawyer Raul Vasquez, Ferdie's true brilliance was in his ability to empathize without being patronizing.

In a class known for finally breaking the gender percentages of the college of law, Ferdie was perhaps one of the most sensitive souls. It was both a blessing and a curse that the ladies of Section B of the Class of 1987 considered him a confidant and confessor.

After law school, Ferdie was hired by Carpio Villaraza and Cruz where he developed his skills as a litigator.

His stint with the government actually started when he left the law office to work with Upsilon brod Christian Monsod, then chair of the Commission on Elections.

After his brief work in the Comelec, he was anxious to get back to the private sector where he thought he could really start earning good money.

This was not to be. In February 1993, two months after having gone back to Carpio, he received a call from another brod, lawyer Rodolfo Reyes, then SBMA corporate secretary, who asked him to join Gordon and the rest of the young volunteers.

Knowing he would not realize his desire to start making good money, Ferdie nonetheless jumped at the opportunity to contribute to the country's economic development.

Like the Scottish patriots who joined William Wallace in defying the tyranny of England in "Braveheart," Ferdie fought the tyranny of mediocrity and showed the world what the Filipinos can accomplish when they work as a team and with vision.

Together with Gordon, and an entire staff of young, inspired and patriotic Filipinos, Ferdie made Subic what it is today, at least what it was before Gordon left it.

Defying Estrada

When President Estrada, in his first official act, tried to forcibly remove Gordon and his team from Subic in 1998, Ferdie was among those who defied him.

He was on the front lines of the siege and stood pat against policemen ordered by the President and appointee SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo to take over SBMA Administration Building 229.

To be sure, Ferdie risked everything, including his life, to fight for and defend the integrity of the institution he helped build, as well as the pride of the people and volunteers of Olongapo City who were chiefly responsible for Subic's success.

"The Book of Life says that, 'As water reflects a faceA, so a man's heart reflects the man' (Prov.27:19)," said Gordon. "He (Ferdie) had a fighter's heart and until his very last moments, it was strong enough to wait for us to be at his side, to be able to whisper our words of gratitude and friendship. It was very like him, he always had to be the stronger one for everybody."

How Ilocano politicians play gods and monsters

BY FRANK CIMATU
Baguio City

SPEAKER Arnulfo Fuentebella of Camarines Sur likes to say he is a "Bilocano" because he got his position with a little help from his Ilocano friends.

During a visit to Baguio City last month, he said it was the congressmen from Northern Luzon who supported any candidate for speakership of the House of Representatives after Manuel Villar Jr. endorsed the Articles of Impeachment against President Estrada.

The House selected five candidates before they chose him, he said.

"And all throughout, it was the 70 to 80 members of the Nationalist People's Coalition and the Northern Alliance who were solid behind every candidate we chose," he said.

Because of this support, Fuentebella said the 110 votes needed to elect him was easily obtained and surpassed.

He was so confident of the Ilocano support that he predicted that the NPC would become the dominant bloc in the House and the Northern Alliance would again be a force to reckon with.

During the NPC powwow at the house of Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas in Baguio City, the term "Northern Alliance" had been invoked so often that one would think it was 1991 again. Fuentebella should be wary of what the group actually delivered.

How NA was born

It was in 1991 when a group of 37 congressmen from the Ilocos, Cordillera and Cagayan Valley threw their support to the presidential bid of then Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. and formed the Northern Alliance.

The man behind the alliance was then Rep. Luis "Chavit" Singson (Ilocos Sur).

Ironically, the Northern Alliance is now being used essentially to fight what Singson, now governor of Ilocos Sur, has started as a crusade after his damning revelations that led to Mr. Estrada's impeachment.

"The Northern Alliance is 98 percent with the NPC. Two percent *lang ang hindi*," Fuentebella said.

The congressman from Camarines Sur may be an astute politician but a lousy mathematician. What he meant was only two congressmen from the North were not with the NPC. He was referring to Rep. Ronald Cosalan (Benguet) and Rep. Salacnib Baterina (Ilocos Sur).

Molintas, an NPC stalwart, later corrected Fuentebella, saying Rep. Lawrence Wacnang (Kalinga) was the other representative they could not take to their side.

Other political analysts said Representatives Florencio Abad (Batanes), Heherson Alvarez (Isabela) and Josephine Dominguez (Mt. Province) were the other non-NPC members.

Wooing 'Solid North'

The first place in Ilocos that Mr. Estrada visited after Singson came up with his exposé was Batac, Ilocos Norte, the hometown of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

It was even Rep. Imee Marcos (Ilocos Norte) who whispered, albeit loudly, to the President that First Lady Luisa Ejercito's father was from Ilocos Norte.

It was also during the same Batac visit that Rep. Grace Singson (Ilocos Sur) vowed her support to Mr. Estrada and even brought most of the mayors in her district with her. Rep. Tomas Dumpit (La Union) also pledged support.

Last month, Mr. Estrada went to Cagayan and again got the support from the congressmen there

"I did not expect this kind of turnout, but now that we have seen it, *mukhang ang* Solid North *ay buhay pa at ang* Solid North *ay nasa likod ni* Erap," Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said during the Batac visit of Mr. Estrada.

But before Mr. Estrada and Fuentebella can assure themselves that the Ilocanos and their Northern Alliance are behind them, they have another think coming.

Shortly after, the Marcos clan announced that it was forming a "Third Force" to give the people a choice from either the pro- or anti-Estrada groups.

Representative Marcos also distanced herself from Mr. Estrada after a disagreement between Marcos loyalists and the President, who had repeatedly referred to the Marcos patriarch in his public engagements as a dictator, became public.

Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas (Ilocos Norte), with whom Governor Marcos is not on speaking terms, is an active Fuentebella supporter and remains adamant in saying the 11-member House prosecution team was chosen improperly and should be disbanded.

The other provinces in the North where the congressman and the governor disagree politically are Ilocos Sur, La Union, Benguet and Isabela.

Representative Alvarez, whose wife is a relative of Governor Singson, was among the first people whom Singson approached when he made his revelations, and was the first to call for Mr. Estrada's impeachment.

Baterina is a member of the 11-member prosecution team and the one who conducted the direct examination of Singson's secretary Emma Lim.

Not enthusiastic

Even those Northern Alliance members who sided with Mr. Estrada are not that enthusiastic.

Rep. Benjamin Cappleman (Ifugao) announced that he would run for Ifugao governor and would put his wife as the congressional candidate.

The Lakas-NUCD in Ilocos Sur said that if Mr. Estrada survives his impeachment, it might field former Rep. Eric Singson for Ilocos Sur governor and allow his wife Grace to run for a second term.

Former Rep. Victor Dominguez is set to replace his wife Josephine, the incumbent Mt. Province representative and Lakas-NUCD chair in Cordillera.

Rep. Bernardo Vergara (Baguio City), who is on his last term, will run for Baguio mayor, changing place with Mayor Mauricio Domogan.

What about Governor Singson?

His counsel, Pablito Sanidad, said Singson did not want to step back into the political stage.

"He does not want to be swayed by politics yet because he wants to make known that his cause is not politically motivated," Sanidad said. "He said he is happy to just retire."

And what about Fuentebella and the Northern Alliance?

He should know that the Northern Alliance was not politically motivated in the sense that this loose group was not able to motivate its voters to select its candidates.

Mitra lost big in Northern Luzon in the 1992 presidential election. In the 1998 elections, the Northern Alliance vowed to support Jose de Venecia, but the former Speaker won only in his native Pangasinan.

At the same time when Fuentebella was making his pitch in Baguio, De Venecia was trying to rekindle his political career by holding a huge Christmas party in San Fabian, Pangasinan.

And if there is one thing De Venecia can give as a New Year's advice to Fuentebella, it is that the Solid North lived and died with Marcos.

Cops accused of favoring pro-Erap groups

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

MILITANT groups have lodged a formal complaint at the Senate calling the police to task for preventing them from demonstrating on the Senate grounds but allowing Estrada supporters to do so.

The complaint was coursed through Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, said Bayan Muna secretary general Nathanael Santiago.

On Friday, Santiago said, at least 3,000 Estrada supporters were allowed to hold rallies in front of the Senate.

But when the antis held a rally there Monday, Santiago said, Brig. Gen. Leonardo Lopez, Senate sergeant-at-arms, issued an order "to limit the number of rallyists to enter the Senate rally area to 400 each for anti- and pro-Estrada groups."

The letter was dated Jan. 15.

The move was to "ensure that the trial would not be disturbed," Lopez noted in a letter to Chief Supt. Edgardo Aglipay, regional director of the National Capital Region Police Office.

A copy of the letter was furnished the INQUIRER.

"As usual, let us not allow loudspeakers, megaphones, drums and other noise making instruments into the premises. If possible, let us frisk rallyists for any concealed deadly weapon," Lopez told Aglipay.

The 5,000 protesters led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and Estrada Resign Movement (Resign) were prevented from getting past the human barricade set up by the police at the Manila Film Center.

Bishops . . .

(From page A1)

the senator-judges to follow her example.

"I am . . . worried about some senator-jurors who seem to interpret words or statements out of context," the bishop said as he insisted that it was clear that Mr. Estrada was talking about illegal gambling and covering up for his friend.

Mr. Estrada is being tried over charges that he received P400 million in bribes from illegal gambling lords, siphoned off P130 million in tobacco tax kickbacks, and pressured investigators into clearing Tan.

Quevedo also defended Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin who called for more protests should the Senate court acquit the President through "deceit and manipulation."

In an "Erap, Remain" rally in Makati City last week, presidential spokesperson Ambassador Ernesto Maceda was reported as having said that the Catholic Church and the President would enjoy a better relationship if Sin resigned and refrained from issuing his calls for his resignation.

"If the government fails to do its job of serving the people, the spiritual mission of the Church in the economic and political order would impel her to criticize the government in the light of Gospel values," Quevedo said.

In a faxed response to a set of questions by the INQUIRER, Quevedo said it was Sin's duty to urge the President to step down and call for protests if Mr. Estrada were acquitted.

"And if the Archbishop of Manila fails to do that, he would be remiss in his moral and religious duty," said Quevedo, a day after the CBCP expressed support for Sin's call for People Power.

Quevedo said that the relationship between the Church and State was determined by how the government was doing its job and whether the Church was being true to her mission.

People power launched

(From page A1)

Cebu, Bacolod, Davao, Iloilo and Dumaguete.

Earlier, former President Fidel Ramos warned that Mr. Estrada's acquittal might pave the way for a military coup.

Ramos, in Hong Kong to promote Philippine investment opportunities, was quoted by Agence France Presse as saying that a coup "could be possible but it is not probable."

He added that a "Palace coup" was also a likely scenario.

At Camp Aguinaldo, Col. Angel Atutubo issued a memorandum prohibiting officers and men from "loitering after taps without valid reasons."

Taps, the last trumpet call at night to signal that all unauthorized lights should be put out, is sounded at 10 p.m. Reveille, the military equivalent of a wake-up call, is sounded at 5 a.m.

Atutubo also banned both civilians and soldiers from "staying inside the camp without proper authority."

Insiders suspect that the top brass wants to limit the movement of soldiers at night—the time when coup plotters make their move, as shown by the bloody failed putsches during the Aquino administration.

But Atutubo laughed off suggestions that the restriction was aimed at isolating soldiers from agitation by certain sectors.

"All military camps have taps. We are just imposing it," the camp commander said in a phone interview.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said no amount of "scare tactics" could stop the militant group and its allied organizations from staging "People Power II" through "nationwide industrial and transport strikes, school boycotts, community barricades, office walkouts and massive demonstrations around Malacañang" to force the President's ouster.

Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño said Malacañang officials were invoking "police powers" to hold off massive protests that would be launched if the impeachment court voted to acquit the President.

According to Casiño, Malacañang was "getting hysterical" over the thought that Mr. Estrada would suffer the fate of the ousted late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Casiño assailed acting Press Secretary Michael Toledo for equating street protests with "anarchy" and for supposedly acting like a "spokesman of a dictatorship."

Ceremonial post

Ramos told reporters that a Palace coup would result in Estrada supporters moving the President into a ceremonial position and establishing a transitional government to take over.

"That kind of arrangement, I am sorry to say, I will fight because it's unconstitutional," he said.

Ramos, a Korean and Vietnam war veteran who maintains strong links with the military, said a coup by the Army was a possibility.

"I am calling it a possibility, not a probability," he said, adding that another scenario would be the withdrawal of support for Mr. Estrada by the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police.

This would be reminiscent of the 1986 Edsa people power revolt, in which then General Ramos was a major player.

Ramos noted that of the 22 senator-judges in the impeachment court, eight were "hardcore" supporters of Mr. Estrada. At least one must switch allegiance if the prosecution is to be successful in removing him from office.

The former President said Filipinos were angry and hungry as the Philippine economy was failing, unemployment had reached 12 percent and the peso had reached a record low against the US dollar.

"I do want better conditions for the people of the Philippines," he said.

Military police

Camp Aguinaldo's military police battalion is in charge of implementing Atutubo's memorandum.

Violators will be fined P100 for the first offense; P200, second offense; and P300, third offense. On the fourth offense, they will be banned from entering the camp.

Insiders said that since the memorandum was issued on Jan. 9, military police had started making rounds as early as 8 p.m. Troops are called to formation at 7 p.m.

As part of security measures, a "light reaction force" and a contingent of armored fighting vehicles are deployed at night.

Late last year, the camp increased its armor assets by almost half.

Only Gate 1 of Camp Aguinaldo along Boni Serrano Avenue is kept open 24 hours. Its other gates are closed starting at 9-10 p.m. and opened only at 6 the next day.

There are 6,000 officers and men based in Camp Aguinaldo, home of the AFP's general headquarters. As many as 4,000 military dependents stay in "barrios" inside the camp.

Atutubo said persons who had neither official business nor proper authorization were barred from the camp at night.

"These (measures) have nothing to do with the ongoing political dynamics outside," he said.

A number of military officers and men are allegedly disenchanted with the President.

Some retired generals have sought his resignation, and said they were speaking on behalf of those on active duty who could not come out in the open.

Encirclement

In Angeles City, the Estrada Resign Movement (Resign) in Central Luzon aired calls for the "encirclement of Malacañang by a million people" to compel the President to resign.

Resign-CL convenor Roman Polintan said: "We vow to join the move."

Polintan warned against complacency and called attention to the "biased stance" of some senator-judges who, he said, were working for Mr. Estrada's acquittal.

He said the Estrada administration was continuing to "employ dirty tactics, including violence and terror, in its desperate attempts to derail the impeachment process and thwart the people's movement to unseat the hated and discredited President."

Similar statements were aired by Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and Pamalakaya.

Rey Magno Teves, co-convenor of the Davao City-based Konsensiya sa Katawhan, said anti-Estrada forces in Mindanao had linked up to coordinate protest actions with groups in Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

He said, however, that anti-Estrada forces in Mindanao would also protest against the military's "war posturing."

He said it appeared that the government was gearing for another war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, as indicated by troop movements in Central Mindanao. *Reports from Philip Tubeza, Carlito Pablo, Christine Herrera and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez in Manila; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP*

Financial Assistance Programs

Asia Pacific College (APC), an educational partnership of SM (Shoemart) Foundation and IBM Philippines, believes that everybody deserves an opportunity to avail of quality education. For this reason, the college offers generous financial assistance programs and academic scholarships of up to 100% to qualified students.

FREE ORIENTATION
Date: February 3, 2001
Time: 9:30am
Venue: APC Cafeteria

To confirm your attendance, please call us on or before January 31, 2001.

50% discount on the application fee for students with complete requirements who shall apply on the same day.

- Public School Graduates Financial Assistance (75 % total tuition and other fees subsidy)
- Parish School Graduates Financial Assistance (50 % total tuition and other fees subsidy)
- Socialized Financial Assistance (up to 60% total tuition and other fees subsidy based on family's aggregate annual income)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
1. Completed Application Form
2. Two pieces 2"x2" identical colored photos
3. Photocopy of latest 4th year high school report card
4. Application fee (PhP300.00)

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED:
1. Entrance Academic Scholarship
2. Dean's Scholarship
3. SM (Shoemart) Foundation Scholarship
4. Army Special Forces Special Education Foundation Scholarship

COURSES OFFERED

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Information Technology (BSCSIT)
- Specialization in Systems and Software Engineering (SSE)
- Specialization in Computer Network Engineering (CNE)
- Specialization in Computer Electronics Engineering (CEE)

Bachelor of Science in Commerce (BSC)
- Major in Computer Information Systems Management (CISM)
- Major in Marketing and Advertising (MA)
- Major in Corporate Communications (CC)

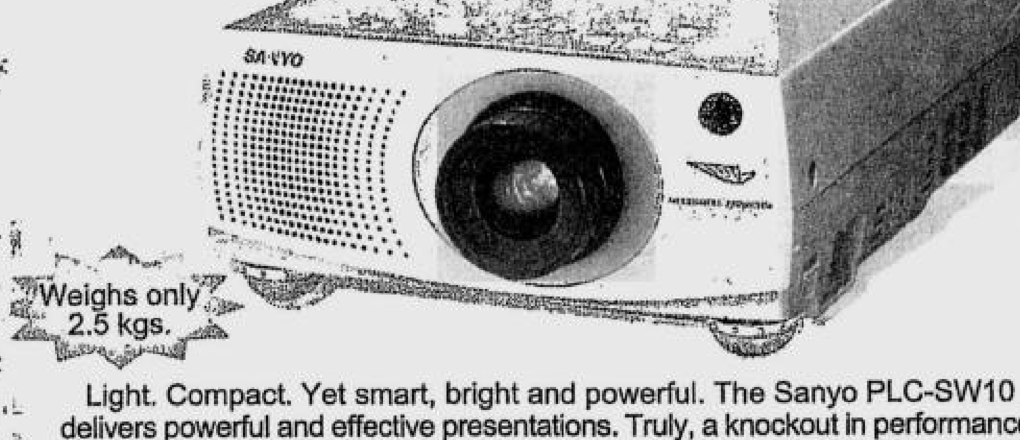
For more information, please contact the Admissions Office at:
No. 3 Humabon Place, Magallanes, Makati City • www.apc.edu.ph • apcquery@apc.edu.ph
Direct Lines: 852-9670 / 852-9671 • Trunkline: 852-9232 loc. 201/202/203 • Fax No: 854-1740

For the most powerful presentations, light is right.

So light, so bright yet so powerful

SPECIAL INTRO OFFER!
Php 138,000 With free screen.
Hurry offer good until Jan. 31, 2001.

Introducing, SANYO PLC-SW10
Micro Portable Multimedia LCD Projector



Light. Compact. Yet smart, bright and powerful. The Sanyo PLC-SW10 delivers powerful and effective presentations. Truly, a knockout in performance!

MICRODATA
SYSTEMS AND MANAGEMENT, INC.
Beyond digital imaging. Beyond Multimedia.

MDS Bldg. 817 J. P. Rizal, Makati City
Philippines 1210
Trunk: 897-7777 / Fax No.:897-7444
System Integration: 897-7683
E-mail: mdsinfo@microdata.com.ph

Effective For:
- Product Launchings
- Seminars
- Trainings
- Educational Aids
- Lectures
- Conferences

*Other models available at discounted prices.

*Provincial dealers are welcome.

See the SANYO PLC - SW10 in action. Visit our showroom for a free demo.

You may win lots of Cash & other fabulous Prizes with QUICKWEB
The Original Pre-Paid Internet Access Card

MORE WAYS TO ENJOY OUR 4TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

PROMO 2 Weekly WHOOPEE! Win a Quickweb Limited Edition Kit every week!!!

PROMO 1 BASH for CASH
First Prize P30,000
Second Prize P15,000
Third Prize (3) U.S. Robotics 56K modems
and 50 consolation prizes of GENETIC Computer Institute gift certificates worth P1,000

PROMO 3 PLUS! Earn points to win these great giveaways!
White Quickweb T-Shirt 20pts
Quickweb Bodybag 25pts
Black Quickweb Sport Shirt 35pts
Quickweb Windbreaker Golf Umbrella 75pts

How to join:
- Simply purchase any Quickweb Kit at any authorized Quickweb dealer and log-in within promo period* for a chance to win lots of cash and fabulous prices.
- Every week, a computerized raffle draw will be held for a chance to win one (1) Quickweb Limited Edition Kit
- Plus! Purchase any Quickweb Kit to earn points and exchange them at the Quickweb Office
  - 5 pts. when you buy Quickweb Starter Kit
  - 10 pts. when you buy Quickweb Professional Kit
  - 25 pts. when you buy Quickweb Limited Edition Kit
- Deadline of log-in entry is on 11:59 PM of January 31, 2001.
- Computerized grand raffle draw will be held on February 7, 2001
- Winners will be announced via E-mail, contact number and print ad.
- Employers & employees of Manila Online and Quickweb, Quickweb dealers and suppliers, advertising agency & relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity are not entitled to join the promo.

*First log-in entry should be between Dec. 8, 2000 - Jan. 31, 2001 to avail of this promo.

PROMO 4 QUICKWEB MIDNITE MAGIC Get 50% OFF on Internet Rates from 12MN to 6AM daily!

Visit www.quickweb.com.ph for further details

Or call: 7224403 / 7218711 / 7218272

HURRY!!!
Promo period is from December 8, 2000 to January 31, 2001 only.

Also available at: AVID SALES (SONY SHOWROOM) • CACHE BUSINESS CENTER • CELL POWER SALES • COMPUTER MART • COMPUWARE COMPUTER CENTER • DATA BLITZ • EUROPHIL COMPUTER • FONKARD STATIONS • GAMESCAPE • HELLO • LANDMARK COMPUTER • MAIL & MORE • MERRIAM WEBSTER • MICRO SHOP • OFFICE 1 SUPER STORE • PERFECT BYTE • PINOY AUCTION • PSJL GAME ZONE • SILICON VALLEY • TRAO TELECOMS • UNO COMMUNICATION • WESTERN MARKETING • SELECTED SM DEPARTMENT & NATIONAL BOOKSTORES

And other leading establishments within Metro Manila

Senate votes to reject P3-B bank evidence

(From page A1)

that the evidence in the envelope was immaterial and irrelevant to the Articles of Impeachment.

The President is accused of bribery, graft and corrupt practices, betrayal of trust and culpable violation of the Constitution.

Those who voted for the opening of the envelope were Senators Raul Roco, Franklin Drilon, Renato Cayetano, Rodolfo Biazon, Loren Legarda-Leviste, Juan Flavier, Teofisto Guingona, Sergio Osmeña III, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Pimentel, who voted last.

The voting came after nearly six hours of impassioned debates.

Sen. Robert Barbers, who is recovering from a throat operation in the United States, did not vote.

"I know something was afoot when Tatad spoke," said Senate Secretary Lutgardo Barbo, who also resigned his post.

Davide was denied his prerogative to make a ruling on the prosecution's motion to open the envelope when Tatad called for a vote. Enrile seconded the motion.

Explaining his "yes" vote, Pimentel said it was "the only way to determine whether the contents of the envelope are relevant and material to the case at bar."

"Because of these developments, I realized that the nays have it and therefore I resign my presidency of the Senate as soon as my successor is elected," he said.

The gallery applauded Pimentel, in much the same way spectators did when Speaker Manuel Villar endorsed the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate on Nov. 13.

The prosecutors said the sealed envelope would provide some of the most damaging evidence yet that the President acquired ill-gotten wealth through bribes and kickbacks after 18 months in office.

Before the actual voting, Legarda-Leviste tried to ask Davide if he could reconsider his decision to throw the matter to the senator-judges for decision.

"The chair cannot because the initial authority of the presiding officer had been preempted by that motion duly seconded," Davide said.

Tatad refused to yield the right of ruling to the chair.

"As movant of the motion, I believe we have gone too far. We have heard almost everyone speak on the motion. I believe it is time to vote," Tatad said.

During the break, Revilla and Ople were approached by representatives of both sides. John Osmeña was heard commenting that Pimentel had shown his side "*halatang-halata na* (It's already obvious)" for the opening of the envelope.

Ople had told a TV network before the voting that he would vote for the opening of the envelope.

He voted no in the roll-call vote.

Arroyo

Arroyo revealed the President closed his "mother" account with Equitable PCI Bank on Nov. 15 when the Senate adopted rules to govern the impeachment proceedings and two days after the House voted to impeach the President.

"It (the money) went again to six accounts, but not in the name of the President," Arroyo said.

He said the funds for the "mother" account (No. 0160-62501-5) came from "various checks, most of them paid to cash" from the President's cronies whom he identified as Mark Jimenez, Dante Tan, Jaime Dichaves, Lucio Co, and a certain Kevin Garcia.

Tan allegedly contributed P300 million, Dichaves P210 million, and Garcia P180 million.

Tan, owner of BW Resources Corp., was indicted last month for securities fraud but was freed after posting bail.

The President "has prostituted and bastardized the banking system" by keeping the money in a savings account under the false name of Jose Velarde, Arroyo said.

He presented a prosecution application to senators-judges for the opening of the second envelope containing bank documents pertaining to the "mother" account.

The Equitable PCI Bank submitted the second envelope containing documents pertaining to the bank account of Jose Velarde last month after it was issued a subpoena.

"If we don't open this, you have a continuing violation of the Constitution, by the President no less," Arroyo said. "We can't have this President because he doesn't even respect our banking laws."

The prosecutor said that the President did not declare the bank deposits in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities in 1999. The President then declared a net worth of only P35 million. Under the country's anti-graft laws, public officials must declare all income.

Arroyo also asked the impeachment court that the testimony of Clarissa Ocampo, senior vice president of Equitable PCI Bank, be admitted and that the court issue subpoenas to compel several banks to produce documents.

Ocampo had testified that she saw the President sign the name Jose Velarde on documents for a P500-million trust account on Feb. 4, 2000 in Malacañang.

It was from the P3.3-billion mother account that the President as Jose Velarde transferred P500 million to the trust fund he opened in the same bank, according to Arroyo.

The same account was also the source of the P142-million check that the St. Peter Holdings used in buying the Boracay mansion for Laarni Enriquez, one of the mistresses of the President.

Subpoenas

The prosecution wants the impeachment court to issue subpoena for the various accounts in at least 15 banks of the President, First Lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, mistresses Laarni Enriquez, Guia Gomez, Joy Melendrez, Kelvin/Kevin Garcia and Jose Velarde.

Arroyo said the balance of several of the accounts of the President's mistresses "shot up" after Mr. Estrada became President.

He said the balance of the Enriquez account rose from P3 million to P63 million and then P249 million since 1998.

Enriquez fled to the United States last week after ignoring a summons issued by the Senate requiring her to take the stand as a hostile witness against the President.

"That is why the opening of the mistresses' accounts are important," he said.

"(This is) in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 1379. When a public official has been found to have acquired during his incumbency whether in his name or in the name of other persons . . . that violates the anti-graft law," Arroyo said.

He also reminded the court that this could be a violation of Republic Act 7080 or the anti ill-gotten wealth law.

Estelito Mendoza, who represented President Estrada's defense panel, opposed Arroyo's motion saying that the impeachment court had no jurisdiction over the matter and that the bank account was not included in the Articles of Impeachment.

"The difficulty we have, approximately, is that we have a President who never uses his name. He has a dozen bank accounts but never does he use his name. In the opening argument, I said that the President violated every word of his oath except his name. Little did I realize that he violated even his name because he's ashamed of it," Arroyo said.

"He doesn't want to use it and we are going to proceed and explain why," he added.

Suppression sparks outrage

(From page A1)

Raul Concepcion said he was shocked and disappointed with the outcome of yesterday's impeachment hearing.

He said what happened would anger a lot of people and precipitate demonstrations.

"We are not quite yet close to having a People Power II, but we are nearly there," Concepcion said.

"Business will certainly be in a paralysis. Although business is now irrelevant in this event, tempers are really going high and people are getting emotional."

Bayan called on the people to join in an indignation rally, which Casi□o said could well be the prelude to People Power II in front of the Senate building at 11 a.m. today.

"We have been waiting for a trigger all along. This might as well be that trigger that could ignite the people's anger," he said.

It urged the public to light candles outside their homes and wear black armband as a sign of protest against what it called "the death of democracy."

The lawyers' group, CLEAR, led by former Integrated Bar of the Philippines official Leonardo de Veyra, yesterday urged Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to resign as presiding officer of the impeachment court.

Sham trial

"He can't be a party to this sham trial, which is a travesty of justice," De Veyra said.

In a telephone interview with the Inquirer last night, retired Gen. Fortunato Abat urged the Armed Forces leadership to immediately advise the President to resign, warning the situation could deteriorate in light of the Senate vote.

Abat expressed disgust at the way the Senate voted.

"The Senate is afraid of the truth," he said.

"They (AFP leaders) should advise him (the President) before the situation deteriorates. And this is to tell him to resign which is the most heroic thing to do. How can the AFP which claims to be a professional armed force still continue to support the President?"

The Young Officers Union "strongly" condemned the Senate's decision and called on the military and the police to "open their eyes" to the "conspiracy" between the pro-administration senators and Malaca□ang to acquit President Estrada.

"We are calling on our comrades to open their eyes to the mockery of our laws," said YOU leader Capt. Baron Cervantes.

"While we strongly support the chief of staff's stand, how can we follow the process when the people in place are very partial to the President?" asked Cervantes who said the YOU's core group was meeting to map out the actions that it would take.

Retired Gen. Ramon Monta□o said the senators who voted not to open the envelope were "shameless."

"It will cause an upheaval and it will involve the military," Monta□o said.

Armed Forces spokesperson Gen. Generoso Senga said he was not aware of any unusual activity inside the camp. But he was outside the camp when interviewed by telephone.

Lawyer Renato Corona, chief aide of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said he was outraged over the result of the voting in the Senate.

"It is obvious that the President is guilty and what these people (senators) did was to prevent the truth from coming out. They will have to pay a heavy political price for the betrayal of the public trust. They placed their personal interest and loyalties over and above the interest of the country," Corona said.

Justice just died

Joey Rufino, Lakas national executive director, said "justice just died" as a result of the voting.

"Civil society will be the judge of this. It only shows that the administration is hiding something," he said.

Bayan's Casi□o said his group would no longer participate in the impeachment proceedings but would just air their condemnation of the acts of some senator-judges.

"We commend the senator-judges who stood their ground, especially Senate President Pimentel who sacrificed his position and whose acts of heroism the Filipino people will forever be thankful," Casi□o said.

The Buklurang Manggagawang Pilipino said the time had come to call on the people for "a second coming of Edsa."

"The 11 senators that voted against the opening of the second envelope are animals and people without souls. Sooner or later they will have their comeuppance. Their names will be writ in our history as enemies of the people and traitors to the country," said Popoy Lagman, BMP chair.

Sticking to his group's principle of peaceful and non-violent way of expression, Gunless Society president Nandy Pacheco said the 11 senators who voted not to open the second envelop should be "ostracized from society."

Pacheco said he was "disgusted and displeased" about the outcome of the voting. He said people should give the pro-Estrada senators the "silent treatment."

"We should show our disgust by avoiding them politely, that we do not like what they did," he told the Inquirer.

Rey Magno Teves, co-convenor of the Konsensiya sa Katawhan, said the parliament of the streets was now the logical recourse for the public since the impeachment court had lost its credibility.

Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Romeo de la Cruz last night called on his constituents to take to the streets. "The vote tonight was a shameless voting," he said.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said if the prosecution withdrew from the trial, "People Power II will be launched early."

"And we will not stop the Bangsamoro people from joining People Power II," he said.

Joji Ilagan-Bian, chair of the Mindanao Business Council, said: "The 11 'no' senators are nauseating! I really cried."

She added that Mindanao business leaders who were meeting last night in Butuan City in consultation were "shocked" by the decision.

"It's a confirmation of the fears of the people. What we feared before is that the trial was a mockery. Then we thought the senator-judges would be impartial, fair and just and be the voice of the Filipino people. We did not see that tonight," Bian said. "They suppressed the truth."

She commended Pimentel for resigning and lauded all the senators who voted yes for their "very honorable acts."

Pimentel, she said, "will be able to leave a mark, a legacy in the history."

In Iligan City, Zita Diez, a corporate executive, said: "I cried. We need to pray. We need a miracle."

Irene Santiago, convenor of the Mindanao Women Leaders' Council, said: "What a mockery of truth and justice! The die is now cast. It's now the people versus Estrada and his cohorts. Let the pro-Estrada senators beware. The people will not take this lightly."

Bebot Rodil, a professor of the Mindanao State University in Iligan City, said "I don't normally swear but I did. I even cried."

Margie Moran-Floirendo, 1974 Miss Universe and now a Mindanaoan civic leader, said: "Obviously, acquittal is in sight. The judges voted for the acquittal. We see here a new hero in our midst, and he is Pimentel. In the beginning, some people were doubtful about his true intention. To me justice was not fully served because the evidence was not presented. Justice was not really served.

"I'm disappointed. First of all, it was not fair. You already know the end, the judgment. But we should continue with the trial because there are two other articles where evidence is yet to be presented. We have to hear those and have to know the truth."

Sorsogon

In Sorsogon, Bishop Jesus Varela urged the public to join mass actions in protest of the Senate decision not to open the second envelope.

"I am terribly outraged by the Senate's action. I commend Senate President Pimentel for resigning."

Varela is a member of the influential Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and a convenor of the Estrada Resign Movement in the Bicol region.

In Lucena City, Fr. Raul Enriquez, vice chair and spokesperson of Gomburza, an association of militant priests and pastors, said the Senate decision indicated that the impeachment court would "unashamedly" acquit President Estrada.

"The next dignified course of action for the prosecutors is to walk out of the impeachment proceedings. The circus is now in the Senate hall where the 11 honorable senator-judges dance and tumble to the tune of Malaca□ang.

Miriam's cousin

Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor, first cousin of Senator-Judge Miriam Defensor-Santiago and who chairs the opposition Lakas in Iloilo, said: "It is tragic. And the result of the voting is a clear indication of how the Senate will vote if the impeachment trial is allowed to proceed.

"I don't know the magnitude of the repercussion that will result from this." ***Reports from Andrea T. Echavez, Christine Avendaño, Carlito Pablo, Donna S. Cueto, Jerome Aning, Gil Cabacungan, Christine Herrera, Philip Tubeza and Volt Contreras in Metro Manila; and Carolyn Arguillas, Nico Alconaba, Jowel Canuday, Edwin Fernandez, Froilan Gallardo, Julie Alipala-Inot, Mindanao Bureau, Christine Herrera, Delfin Mallari Jr. and Edra Benedicto from the PDI Bureaus.***

'Our job is to ferret out truth, the people deserve nothing less'

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

"OUR JOB here is to ferret out the truth. The appropriate thing to do is to allow the opening of the second envelope. The people deserve nothing less than the truth," Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste yesterday said.

But Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta said she would not allow the prosecution to use the impeachment court in its "fishing expedition."

These were among the reasons cited by the senators as they debated on whether to open the second envelope containing documents on the P3.3-billion bank account of President Estrada under the name of Jose Velarde.

After the voting, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. blamed Mr. Estrada's supporters whom he said used their "sheer weight of numbers" to prevent the opening of the second sealed envelope.

"I think the people who are supporting President Estrada have caused damage that cannot be repaired to this institution that I love as a senator, therefore I cannot continue leading such a damaged institution," he said.

"I do this so that our people, especially the young ones coming after us, will have some hope that there are still public officials who are willing to stand up for what is good and what is moral and just for the good of all," Pimentel said.

"There are more things that are important than just being Senate president. I believe that the truth should be made to come out in this impeachment trial and the evidence that was sought to be uncovered tonight . . . might have been decided at a proper time," Pimentel said during a press conference at the Senate lounge.

After Pimentel announced his resignation, Oreta happily waved her fists, prompting the people in the session gallery to boo her.

Before the voting, Sen. Teofisto Guingona said:

"We owe it to the nation, to the millions who are now listening, to grant this simple request. Let us open the envelope."

Nine senators explained why the envelope containing documents on the P3.3-billion bank account should be opened. They included Juan Flavier, Raul Roco, Rodolfo Biazon, Sergio Osmeña III, Renato Cayetano, Franklin Drilon and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Besides Oreta, Senators Francisco Tatad, Juan Ponce Enrile, John Osmeña, Miriam Santiago and Gregorio Honasan spoke against opening the envelope.

Pimentel, Revilla, Ople, Sotto, Coseteng and Jaworski did not speak.

Immediately after the defense and prosecution lawyers presented their arguments, Tatad moved that the senator-judges cast their votes already. Enrile seconded the motion.

Legarda, Drilon, Cayetano and Roco wanted Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., the presiding officer of the trial, to make the ruling first as provided for in the Senate rules.

Davide, however, said that the quick motion by Tatad put him in a dilemma and that he could no longer hand a ruling.

In his explanation, Tatad cited American impeachment expert Charles Black who said that an impeached official could only be tried for the charges filed against him.

"I do not believe the Senate can go beyond the Articles of Impeachment," Tatad said.

Transparent

Roco said the trial should be transparent.

"We are the ones now being judged. As we vote on this, we shall be judged (by the people)," Roco said.

Guingona asked if the defense panel would have objected vigorously if Jaime Dichaves, a friend of the President, succeeded in claiming ownership of the Velarde account.

"Can I ever face the farmers again if we will not open the envelope and release the truth that is imprisoned there? I need to see what is in that envelope. It would help me make my decision," Biazon said.

Sergio Osmeña said the testimony of Clarissa Ocampo, a senior vice president of the Equitable PCI Bank, was "very very credible after all she has no reason to lie."

He said nobody would know if the P130-million tax kickback and the P200-million "jueteng" money went into the mother account if the envelope was not opened. And he said the President had repeatedly denied the accusations.

"So why is the defense panel so afraid to open this? Maybe if this is opened, the boxing is over?" Sergio Osmeña said. He also said that the Senate was on trial.

He said the question was "whether a President with a hidden P3.3-billion account is still fit to be President."

Cayetano warned that if the envelope was not opened, the testimony of Ocampo would be stricken from the records of the trial.

It was Ocampo who testified that Jose Velarde is the President.

"Does this envelope contain a bomb? Maybe it's not the bomb that kills. Maybe this is a bomb of truth," Cayetano said.

Bar of public opinion

Enrile said he knew he was facing the bar of public opinion when he cast his vote. That's why he was voting with a sense of trepidation.

"I'm not saying at this point that President Estrada is guilty of the charges against him. Neither am I saying that he is innocent. Not yet. What I'm saying at this point is that as a senator-judge, I cannot perform the function of the House of Representatives which prepared the Articles of Impeachment," Enrile said.

Enrile said the Senate has no powers under the Constitution to amend the Articles of Impeachment in order to accommodate the opening of the envelope.

Enrile disclosed that when he was charged with rebellion complex with murder after the Edsa revolt, his witness was shipped out of the country by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin with the "connivance of President Aquino."

Aquino-Oreta said that Ocampo's testimony led to massive withdrawals from Equitable. She warned that opening the second envelope would destroy the banking sector and bring about economic ruin.

John Osmeña said the "unsubstantiated, loose remarks" of the prosecution about the hidden multibillion-peso accounts were intended to heat up public opinion.

"We are therefore being used, made puppets in a show to bring about the completion, the success of an agenda that is not provided for in the Constitution," he said.

"What is this fuss all about?" he asked.

Drilon pointed out that the second envelope had been subpoenaed on Jan. 10.

"Why is the defense panel objecting to its opening? It's very clear, it is because this is owned by President Estrada," Drilon said.

Drilon said that in the President's debit-credit letter to the Equitable PCI Bank, which he signed in front of Ocampo, the President said that P500 million be debited from "my savings account 0160-62501-5."

Relevant

"Envelope No. 2 is relevant and material in our quest for truth, for the credibility of these proceedings, this institution and the fate of our people in a democracy," Drilon said.

"The main issue here is if that man in Malacañang is still fit to be President," said Magsaysay, invoking the good reputation of his father and namesake, the late President Ramon Magsaysay.

Santiago invoked the rule of law, which she said was what was binding the Filipinos into one nation.

"I intend to vote out of a sense of the shared destiny of our people," she said.

"Instead of trying to defend the Constitution, we should try to follow it first," said Honasan, who was the last to speak.

Teary-eyed lawmakers and other Senate employees rushed to the podium last night right to express support for Senate President Pimentel right after he suddenly announced that he was resigning from his post and the trial was adjourned.

The announcement was met by a round of applause from those in the gallery that did not join the walkout.

Legarda cried. Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno and others were teary-eyed as lawmakers and mediamen rushed to the podium and crowded around Pimentel.

Mediamen were pushed by overzealous members of the Senate security force who continued to push a lane across the mob of cameramen, photographers, broadcasters and print mediamen and even resulted in a broken door of the session hall. ***With a report from Cathy Cañares***

Split decision portent of things to come

(From page A1)

the impeachment tribunal, was suddenly set aside is a puzzler. It raised a lot of questions in the minds of the people who view Davide as the stabilizing factor in an otherwise emotionally charged trial.

The fact that Tatad jumped the gun on Davide, with Enrile immediately supporting such action, gives the impression that the move was pre-arranged. Tatad, or whoever may be orchestrating things within the ranks of the senators who are perceived to be sympathetic to the President, may have conducted a headcount on the possible voting results before he made his motion.

Perhaps, this early the pro-Estrada senators would like to know who are firmly in their camp and who are not. The issue of whether the second envelope should be opened presented the best opportunity for that informal survey.

It may not be amiss to speculate that, through that voting scheme, the pro-administration senators may be testing the political waters. How will the public react to a vote that, more or less, gives a portent of things to come when judgment day comes? Will the public react violently to the move to prevent the prosecution from using bank records to prove the culpability of the President?

The politically astute senators, especially those up for reelection this year, know that if the public reacts sharply to the action they took, it may be a good idea to think doubly hard before they cast their vote on the guilt or innocence of the President on judgment day.

Public question

With the court's refusal to open the second envelope, the public's curiosity as to its contents became stronger. What are contained inside the envelope that the President's lawyers vehemently opposed its opening? Will the bank documents prove the prosecution's allegations that the President has a savings account with a P3.3-billion deposit?

The testimony of Clarissa Ocampo, senior vice president of Equitable PCI Bank, on the opening of a P500 million trust agreement by the President, under the signature of Jose Velarde, has started a paper trail that could have been completed with the opening of the second envelope.

Now that the second envelope has been ordered to remain unopened, all kinds of speculation are expected to play in the public's mind. The envelope was not opened because it contained damaging information. The President's lawyers knew the contents of the envelope will make or break their client's case. So its opening had to be stopped at all costs, and 11 senators willingly lent them a hand in this move.

Materiality

As correctly pointed out by Davide in his earlier ruling allowing the opening of the first Equitable PCI Bank envelope, the issue of whether a piece of evidence is material or relevant to the case should be determined when the evidence is formally offered by any party at the end of the trial.

Under existing court procedures, the fact that a piece of evidence is testified on in the course of a direct testimony or cross-examination does not automatically mean that evidence shall form part of the records of the case.

After the witnesses have testified, whatever documents or pieces of evidence may have been presented during the trial have to be formally offered in evidence. If the judge rules that the evidence is material or relevant to the case, they will be accepted. Otherwise, they shall be rejected and the party who introduced that particular evidence cannot cite it in support of his case.

Thus, consistent with Davide's earlier ruling, the documents in the second envelope should have been opened first and allowed to be viewed by the court. It is only when they are offered in evidence that the defense can rightfully object to their admission on the ground of immateriality or irrelevancy.

This elementary principle on evidence was not lost on Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., an experienced trial lawyer during his younger years.

Probably seeing the action of his colleagues as legally indefensible, he opted to resign. He cannot be blamed for refusing to be the head of a supposedly superior legislative body that did not know when to properly assert its authority or defer to the judgment of a more competent government official.

The defense may have won a legal victory. But the political consequences of the winning may prove disastrous in the end.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: Australian Open, Elimination Round at 8 a.m.-2 p.m. (r - 2 p.m.) on Sky Cable 17

ATP World Series Tournament-Qatar Open 2001, Semifinal #1 at 7 p.m. (r), Semifinal #2 at 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: NBA—Toronto Raptors vs Houston Rockets at 9 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA – Boston College Eagles vs Duke Blue Devils at 1 p.m., Iowa Hawkeyes vs Wisconsin Badgers at 4 p.m. and Tennessee Volunteers vs Kentucky Wildcats tomorrow at 2 a.m. on ESPN

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

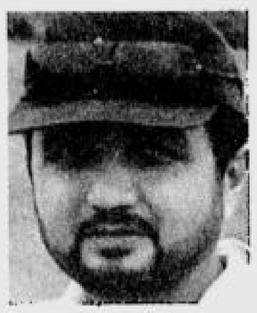
San Lorenzo stops Lyceum run

COLEGIO de San Lorenzo snapped Lyceum's winning streak after posting an 85-80 victory yesterday in the 8th McDonald's-National Capital Region Athletic Association seniors basketball tournament. CSL is now at 4-2, while pulling down Lyceum to 5-1.

Miñoza to join President's Cup

BY ROY LUARCA

WHAT he failed to do two years ago, Frankie Miñoza will try to accomplish in the 1st President's Invitational Pro-Am set Jan. 25-28 at the Manila Southwoods in Carmona, Cavite.



SOBREPEÑA

MIÑOZA

Miñoza botched his title-retention bid in the 1999 Philippine Open also at the Masters course and would be returning to lead the compact Filipino contingent in the $200,000 event serving as the kickoff leg of the Asian Davidoff PGA Tour.

He has been winless since then, even in the Japan Tour where he used to win consistently, but is still rated the sentimental favorite in the 66-man pro cast owing to his sterling credentials.

Other fancied Filipinos are reigning Philippine Open champion Gerald Rosales, Cassius Casas, Rodrigo Cuello and Danny Zarate, all of whom were seeded by virtue of their Top 60 finish in last year's Asian Tour.

Also entered are Robert Pactolerin and Marciano Puçay, who were granted sponsors' exemptions like Miñoza.

"Frankie has confirmed his participation and in fact, coming early because he wants to win for the first time at Manila Southwoods," said Bob Sobrepeña, chair of Southwoods, during yesterday's press conference at Heritage Hotel.

Miñoza has informed organizers that he'd be arriving on Jan. 20 to have a few practice rounds at the Masters.

Foreigners who have confirmed participation were India's Jyoti Randhawa, Taiwan's Yeh Wei-tze, South Africa's Craig Kamps, India's Arjun Atwal, Thailand's Jaidee Thongchai and Marsaeng Prayad, South Africa's Des Terblanche and James Kingston and Korea's Wook-soon Kang; who were rated 2nd to 10th, respectively, in the Order of Merit.

Apart from its unique format patterned after the Pebble Beach Pro Am, the President's Invitational has also the noble aim of raising funds for an envisioned local golf tour and beneficiaries of President Estrada's charity projects.

"We are reviving the local golf tour hopefully by March using funds from the event as seed money," said Sobrepeña, who expressed optimism that the event will become an institution like the RP Open.

The President's Invitational marks the first time that the Asian Tour is adopting the pro-am format, which is expected to lead to good results.

"In deference to the amateurs, the course is going to be fair, but nevertheless testing," said tournament director Buddy Resurrecion.

Tournament format calls for each pro to play alongside two amateurs, who'll be playing 36 holes each using their handicaps. There will be no cut for the pros.

Sobrepeña also assured the safety of the participants, saying that security has been doubled in and around the venue, including bomb-sniffing dogs.

RICHEST DEAL

Duremdes gets hefty ₱80-M Mobiline offer

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

MOBILINE yesterday tendered an offer sheet to Kenneth Duremdes that would assure the 6-foot-3 guard a record P75-80 million in salary and bonuses for the next eight years.

Alaska Milk, which earlier stressed that it would match any offer to its franchise player, has five days to match the offer as stipulated in PBA rules.

Duremdes' monthly pay alone—pegged at the maximum P500,000—would amount to P48 million. There will also be allowances, bonuses on won games, individual and team awards.

Mobiline manager Frankie Lim said they have submitted to the PBA the offer sheet that would make the 1998 MVP the richest PBA player.

Duremdes reportedly signed the offer sheet to show his desire to jump ship to the Phone Pals after having a falling out with the Aces over the New Year's Eve trade of Johnny Abarrientos and Poch Juinio to Pop Cola.

Mobiline's decision to dangle an offer sheet only formalized its bid to lure Duremdes, whom it earlier offered a P42-million, seven-year contract.

Alaska manager Joaqui Trillo said they would match "any offer up to the last centavo."

"If we are to keep just one player in the team, it would be Kenneth," said Trillo during the rookie draft Sunday. "But we are giving him the best deal any player can have."

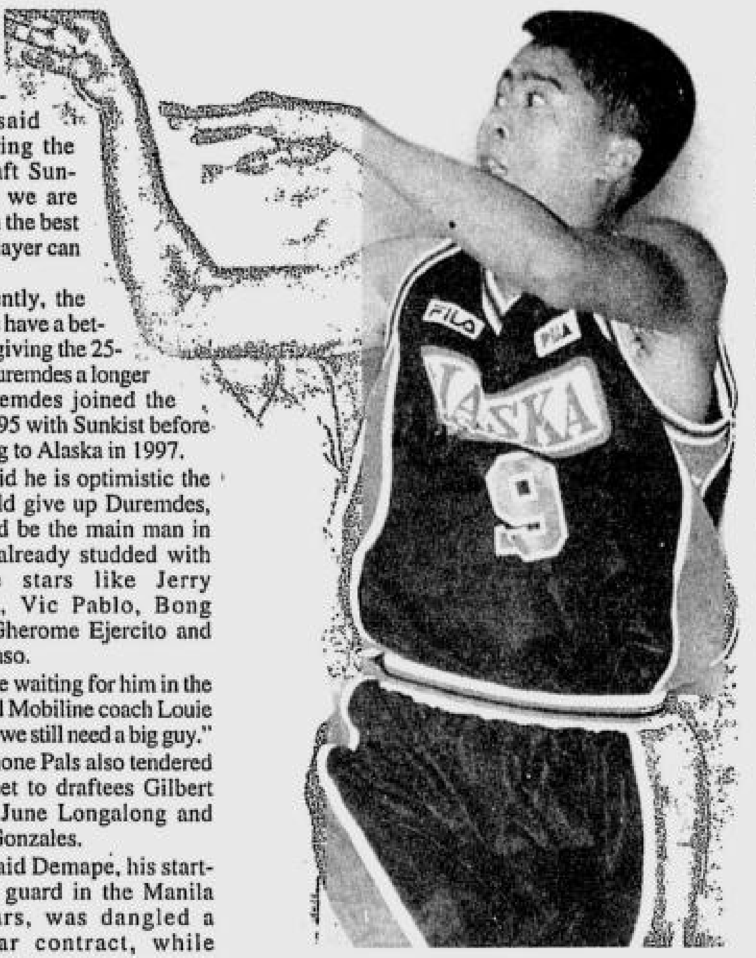
Apparently, the Phone Pals have a better idea in giving the 25-year-old Duremdes a longer term. Duremdes joined the PBA in 1995 with Sunkist before transferring to Alaska in 1997.

Lim said he is optimistic the Aces would give up Duremdes, who would be the main man in the team already studded with big-name stars like Jerry Codiñera, Vic Pablo, Bong Ravena, Gherome Ejercito and Don Camaso.

"We are waiting for him in the team," said Mobiline coach Louie Alas. "But we still need a big guy."

The Phone Pals also tendered offers sheet to draftees Gilbert Demape, June Longalong and Norman Gonzales.

Alas said Demape, his starting point guard in the Manila Metrostars, was dangled a three-year contract, while former Metrostar forward Longalong and Pampanga Dragon forward Gonzales were offered two-year pacts.



DUREMDES, in file photo, is poised to become the richest PBA player with Mobiline's mega-buck deal offer.

Ateneo, Hapee gain in PBL

BY DENNIS U. EROA

ATENEO-PIONEER banked on its triple towers to pull the rugs from under Blu Sun Power, 71-68, even as Hapee Toothpaste spanked Montaña Jewels, 64-58, yesterday in the PBL Challenge Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Enrico Villanueva, Rich Alvarez and Paolo Bugia wreaked havoc in the shaded area as the Blue Eagles survived a scrambling finish.

Ateneo-Pioneer, thus, kept its slim chance of making the finals via the 4 of 5 incentive rule with a 1-1 record in the semifinal, and 5-7 overall. The loss was doubly painful for the Detergent Kings, who dropped to 6-6 but are no longer eligible for the incentive with a 0-2 semis mark.

The 6-foot-5 Villanueva, 6-foot-6 Bugia and 6-foot-4 Alvarez collared 30 of Ateneo-Pioneer's 44 rebounds on top of combining for 37 points.

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS

Milwaukee 101, Washington 95; New York 104, San Antonio 82; Philadelphia 84, Charlotte 79; New Jersey 84, Atlanta 78; Sacramento 116, Dallas 105; Boston 107, Minnesota 102; Cleveland 107, Golden State 101; Indiana 89, L.A. Clippers 74; Orlando 113, Chicago 104; L.A. Lakers 113, Vancouver 112, OT; Utah 116, Houston 104, OT; Denver 122, Seattle 111. *AP*

POC wants NSA laws synchronized

BY JUNE NAVARRO

CERTAIN provisions in the constitution and by-laws of the 40-member national sports associations will be synchronized with the charter of Philippine Olympic Committee to prevent an upheaval similar to what is happening in cycling and weightlifting.

POC president Celso Dayrit yesterday tasked softball's Rolly Rivera, chair of the POC constitution and by-laws committee, to come up with a standard provision with respect to the qualification of officials, term of office and schedule of elections:

Dayrit has given Rivera until Jan. 24 to submit his committee's recommendations during the POC executive board meeting for approval and then ratification in the general assembly on Jan. 31.

"Once approved, the NSAs will incorporate these changes in their constitution and by-laws in compliance with the POC charter," said Dayrit.

Plana takes DHL golf lead with 69

BY JONG ARCANO

BATTLING strong winds that bent flagsticks and shook up players in their stance, Jun Jun Plana submitted the day's only sub-par round—a sizzling three-under-par 69—yesterday to storm ahead by three strokes in the first round of the sixth DHL Amateur Open golf championship.

The 33-year-old Plana, general manager of Wilson Philippines, relied on his impeccable short game and steady driving to tame the south course of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna, gunning down four birdies against a solitary bogey to set the early pace.

So solid was Plana from around the green that he rescued three pars from the bunkers and even made a spectacular save on the sixth where he had to play out from a stymie, put a 9-iron from 140 yards to within eight feet before sinking the putt.

Trailing Plana by three strokes were club bets Juvic Pagunsan and Ronnie Torrecampo who came through with impressive even-par efforts on a day when the wind-blown field had to adjust to as many as three clubs on certain holes.

"What Jun Jun did was really amazing under these wind conditions," said a bewildered Angelo Que, who was four strokes behind after a 73.

Dave Hernandez, who reverted to amateur as soon as he got back from a long teaching stint in Brunei, also had an auspicious start with his 74 putting him in the company of Boyet Zaragosa, Solomon Gines, Marlon Dizon and Raymond Sangil.

Rolly Viray, another ex-pro, was joined by former national champ Artemio Murakami and Jun Bernis at 75.

Indon surges ahead

INDONESIA'S Lin Setiawan carded a 77 yesterday to celebrate his debut in the fourth PLDT Philippine International Junior Golf Championship with a one-shot lead in the Special Division.

That 77 was five over par at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's 6,774-yard East Course from the blue tees but it was enough for the 20-year-old Bogor bet to show the way over three dangerous rivals.

Indra Hermawan, also 20 and Setiawan's town mate, started his defense of the division limited to players who are 18-21 years old with a 78 to share second place with Thailand's Sae-ung Wittatwat.

The Philippines' Juan Raul "J.R." Tanpinco came up with a 79 to stay in contention in the tournament organized by Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada.

'Day with Delasin' on

DOROTHY Joy Delasin, the PSA's Athlete of the Year, will play at Riviera's Langer today with officials of Cinnabon and Shell and selected friends in a tournament dubbed "A Day with Dorothy Delasin."

The 20-year-old Delasin, who is expected to hit town at 5:30 a.m., will motor direct from the airport to the Silang, Cavite, layout and next meet the press at lunch.

A Toyota Echo Verso is a hole-in-one prize on all four par-3s of Langer.

Cinnabon Rolls will be served at breakfast, with lucrative prizes to be given away to winners and as raffle giveaways courtesy of Citgo, Mizuno and Solahart through Lovell Gopez and Unilever through Chito Macapagal.

Delasin will be in the flight of Rod Feliciano, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, will be paired in the presidential flight with Rene Santos of Cinnabon, Oscar Reyes of Shell and Riviera president Danny Pizarro.

Tomorrow, Delasin will be a guest of Quezon City where Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. will hand the symbollic key of the city to the US LPGA Rookie of the Year.

Delasin will next launch the "ABS for a Cause" project for the city's health program.

15 still unbeaten at Dome

A TOTAL of 15 entries, led by the Thunderbird-Firefly-III/JLA and Canada's Penniesaver/Penny Fabros tandem survived unscathed in the rousing inaugural of the three-day, World Slasher Cup 8-cock international derby at the Araneta Coliseum Monday.

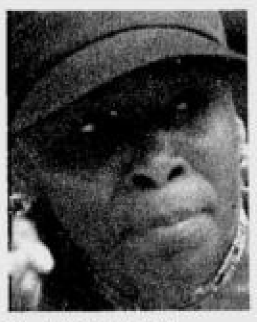
The Thunderbird-Firefly-JLA combine first downed the Dangerous/Emitte San Juan team before finishing off the Sky Land/Boy Lechon entry with a quick, death-dealing stab. Penniesaver and Penny Fabros from Canada dominated Alfonso Cockpit—II/B. Doromal/Buddy Jr. group and completed the day's onslaught with a convincing easy win over Raffy Phoenix San Rafael/N. Abello/M./V.

V. Williams bucks upset

MELBOURNE, Australia—At the start, the focus was on Venus Williams' new outfit. By the third set, it was strictly tennis.

Williams caused a stir with her latest fashion statement, a three-piece black and blue ensemble, then courted disaster against obscure Spaniard Maria Jose Martinez before winning 6-3, 2-6, 6-0 in the first round of the Australian Open.

The rocky victory marked the start of Williams' bid for a third consecutive Grand Slam tournament title.



V. WILLIAMS

"It's a good thing to have a little test in the first round," said the third-seeded Williams. "I was, of course, concerned, because she was playing very well and very consistently. Somehow I managed to turn it around."

Her sister Serena, the No. 6 seed, won more easily, dispatching Janet Lee of Taiwan 6-1, 6-4.

Nearing the end of the first round, only one seeded man or woman had been eliminated: women's No. 11 Chanda Rubin.

Among those advancing Tuesday were No. 5 Yevgeny Kafelnikov, No. 7 Mary Pierce and 1997 runner-up Carlos Moya.

Venus Williams had her hands full against Martinez, a hard-hitting 18-year-old playing her first match in a major tournament. But just as the center court crowd began to buzz at the prospect of an upset, the youngster lost her nerve.

Martinez's groundstrokes began to go awry early in the third set, and she blew two overheads. Williams won seven consecutive points to take control, saved two break points to hold for a 4-0 lead and closed out the rocky victory in 89 minutes.

Williams, who studies fashion design, unveiled her first new outfit since signing a US$40 million endorsement deal with Reebok. She repeatedly tugged at the low-cut wraparound top, and while she denied that it bothered her, she added, "I didn't design that one."

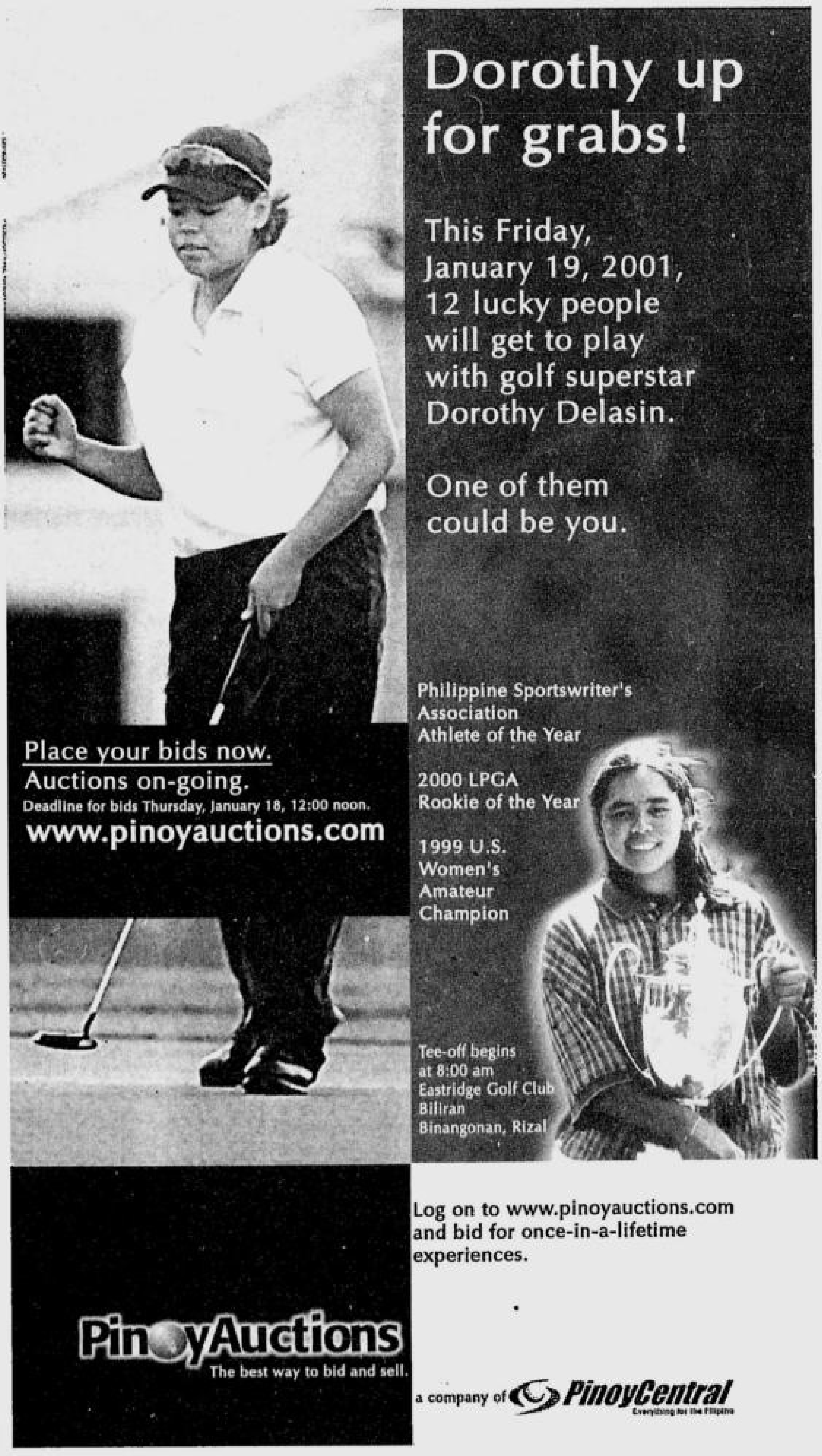
Serena Williams played at the same time as her sister and was unable to check out Venus in the new outfit.

"I saw it hanging up, and it's really cute," Serena said. "A lot of people try to keep with us, and it's really hard. We're the original—the first, the last."

Venus won despite 46 errors and an erratic serve in her first singles match of 2001. She said she has recovered from a recent bout with anemia, and she's seeking to add the Australian Open to the Wimbledon, US Open and Sydney Olympic titles she won in the second half of last year. *AP*

SORRY

NO columns today of Manolo Iñigo and Bebo Quiros due to space constraints.



Dorothy up for grabs!

This Friday, January 19, 2001, 12 lucky people will get to play with golf superstar Dorothy Delasin.

One of them could be you.

Philippine Sportswriter's Association Athlete of the Year

2000 LPGA Rookie of the Year

1999 U.S. Women's Amateur Champion

Tee-off begins at 8:00 am
Eastridge Golf Club
Biliran
Binangonan, Rizal

Place your bids now.
Auctions on-going.
Deadline for bids Thursday, January 18, 12:00 noon.
www.pinoyauctions.com

Log on to www.pinoyauctions.com and bid for once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

PinoyAuctions
The best way to bid and sell.

a company of PinoyCentral

MAKRO is exclusively for licensed businesses only.

Be a member now!

makro mail

2001-02

Watch out for our special offers every week in major newspapers. More than 120 exciting offers available in the Makro Mail. Hurry! Visit Makro now!

OFFER AVAILABLE IN ALL STORES NATIONWIDE FROM January 17-30, 2001

OPEN EVERYDAY 7 AM TO 9 PM

EXCEPT MANILA HARBOUR CENTRE (STORE HOURS 6AM-9PM) MAKRO PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE 10% VAT.

DIAMOND Dinorado Rice
25 Kg.
(VAT Exempt)
P19.96 per kilo

P499 per sack

SPRING Cooking Oil
1 Gal. PET

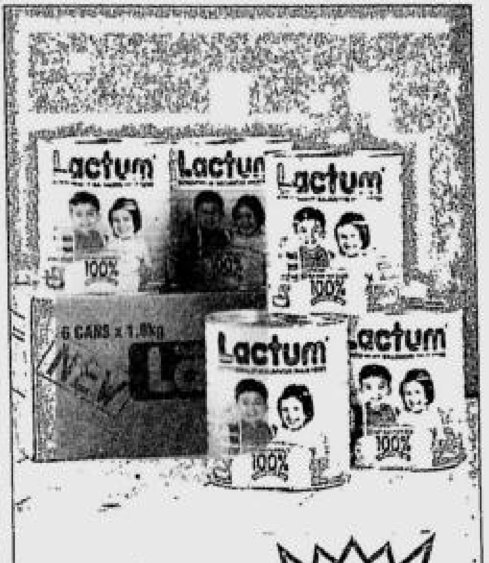
P99

LUCKY ME Supreme
Chicken, Beef, Seafoods, Batchoy, Bulalo
6 x 75 G.
P17 per pc.

P102 per pack

MASTER Sardines
Green, Red, Hot
10 x 155 G.
P6.95 per 155 G.

P69.50 per pack



LACTUM Plain Milk
1,800 G.

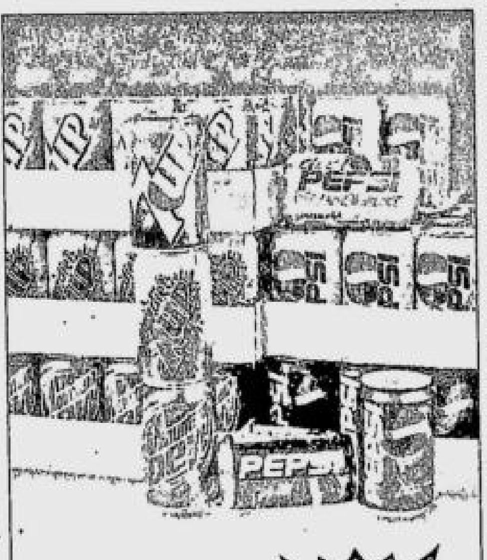
P339 per can

PALMER Nascar Choco
Double Crisp
24 x 10 oz.
P2.92 per 10 oz.

P70 per pack

PALMER Odd Balls Mugs
with Sports Balls
4 oz.

P170 per mug



PEPSI In Can
Pepsi Reg., Diet Pepsi, 7-Up Reg., Diet 7-Up, Mt. Dew, Mug in Can, 24 x 330 mL.
P7.73 per can

P185 per pack

GINEBRA SAN MIGUEL
Red (Round)
24 x 350 mL.
P15.83 per bottle

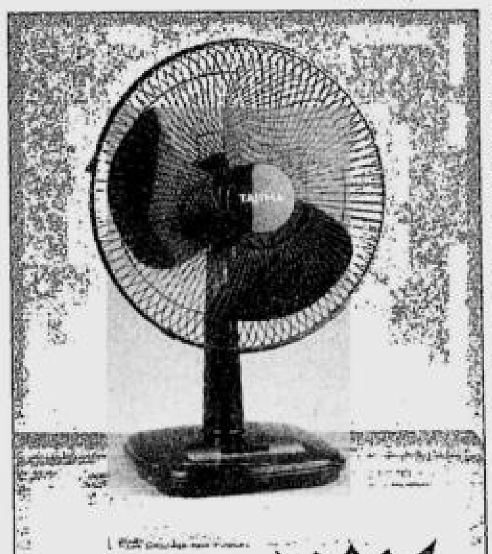
P380 per case

SWIFT Mighty Meaty Long
1 Kg.

P114 per pack

STEAM SHOP
Petite Siopao
Asado,Bola-Bola
25 pcs.

P105 per pack



TAJIMA Desk Fan 16"
Plastic Fan Blade
DF-16

P549

IMARFLEX Oven Toaster
KM-130

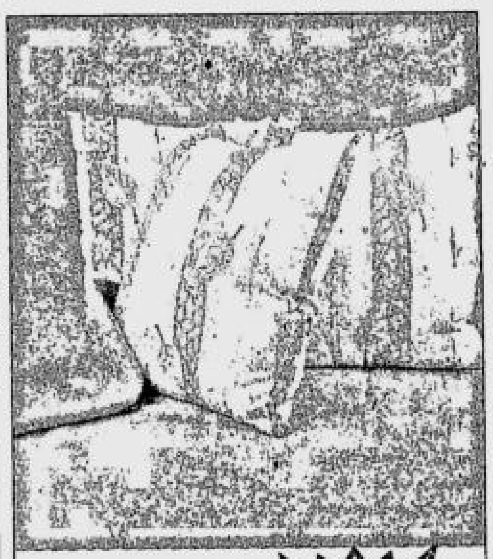
P549

NB Office Chair
with Arms & Gaslift Leatherette; Grey, Black & Blue Colors, TK108A

P1,095

Sleepworth Mattress Kapok
36" x 75" x 3"

P589



Throwpillow Filler
Printed, 16 x 16
3 pc. Set

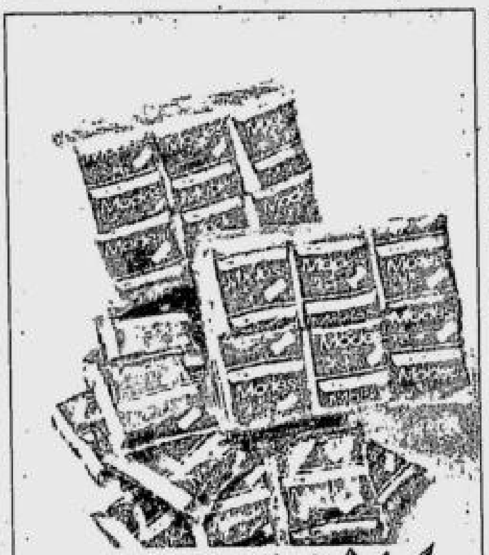
P129

SORELLA Bra
3's

P99

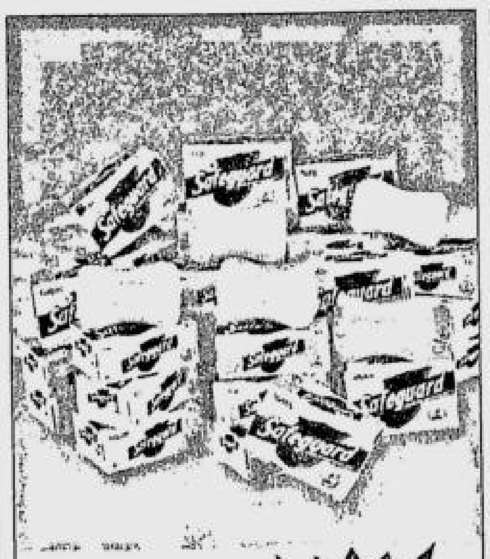
NB Waist Trimmer
2's

P99



MODESS Silky Dry
12's Single, 3's

P109



SAFEGUARD
White, Gold, Beige, Pink, Green, Fruity
90 G. 12's

P149

MR. CLEAN
Speckled, Sampaguita Blu, Sampaguita White
6's

P79

NOW WITH 7 STORES TO SERVE YOU!

MAKRO Cainta : F. Felix (Formerly Imelda) Avenue, Cainta, Rizal : Tel. No. 656-7451
MAKRO Imus : Gen. Aguinaldo Highway, Anabu I, Imus, Cavite : Tel. No. (046) 515-2222
MAKRO Novaliches : #402 Quirino Highway, Sangandaan, Novaliches, Quezon City : Tel. No. 936-2216
MAKRO Sucat : East Service Road, South Super Hi-way, Muntinlupa City : Tel. Nos. 850-6570 to 79
MAKRO Harbour Centre : Lot 11, Manila Harbour Centre, Radial Road 10, Vitas, Tondo, Manila : Tel. No. 256-3106
MAKRO Cebu : M. Logarta Avenue, Barrio Subangdaku, Mandaue City, Cebu : (032) 345-9540 to 49
MAKRO Davao : Km. 7, McArthur Highway, Barrio Bangkal, Davao City : Tel. No. (082) 297-3615
Makro website : http://www.makro.com.ph

LIMITED STOCKS AVAILABLE

Thieves with sweet tooth

POLICE are looking for the group that stole 1,000 sacks of sugar worth about P1.5 million from two trucks that were found abandoned in Sta. Cruz, Manila on Monday. The sugar came from the Don Pedro Azucarera Central Refinery in Batangas. Police suspect the missing truck driver and helpers. *Jerome Aning*

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

My girlfriend, my victim

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl was walking in front of the Philippine School of Business Administration in Quezon City on Monday when, at 5:40 p.m., a dark short man suddenly put his arms around her and acted "like we were lovers." The man whispered to the shocked girl, "Give me your cell phone," took the phone and casually walked away. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Asistio bribing Caloocan people with ₱20-M rice, says councilor

'I'm happy being accused of sharing with the poor'

ASISTIO

By CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

CALOOCAN City Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio is taking advantage of his close friendship with President Estrada to purchase rice worth P20 million from the National Food Authority for distribution to residents, according to a city councilor.

"Asistio is bribing the poor with sacks of rice as part of his campaign strategy," Councilor Edgar Erice said on Monday.

"The purchase is highly irregular," the councilor said. "How can he afford to buy P20 million worth of rice for donation?"

But Asistio fired back: "It's true I'm using my links with Malacañang—to help the poor."

Erice, who is running for a congressional seat in Caloocan, said Asistio has been distributing a sack of rice to each public school teacher, and four kilos of rice to every household.

"It's obvious the donations are part of the post-acquittal scenario for Asistio's friend Erap," Erice said,

ASISTIO BRIBING/ A20

Australian cleared of raping employee

By JEROME ANING

AN AUSTRALIAN hotel owner was yesterday released from jail, where he spent the last 30 months, after a Manila regional trial court cleared him of raping a female employee.

Wesley Prentice burst into tears and muttered thanks to the judge and to his lawyer after he heard the ruling of Judge Perfecto Laguio Jr. of the Manila RTC Branch 15.

In his 13-page decision, Laguio ruled Prentice was not guilty of rape after he found discrepancies in the account of the complainant, which led the court to conclude that the two had sex by mutual consent.

When the complainant filed the case in December 1998, her aunt and her counsel had demanded P5 million from Prentice to settle the case, the court found out.

The complainant, a former nightclub dancer, who was not present when the judge made the ruling, accused Prentice of raping her twice in 1998. She claimed that the first rape happened in August in a hotel in Olongapo City and the second rape took place the following month in Ermita, Manila.

But Prentice said he and the complainant had been lovers and that she fabricated the charges against him because he ended their relationship. He said his wife Dianne also harassed the complainant when she learned about their affair and wanted him to fire her.

Prentice said that he hired the

AUSTRALIAN/ A20

CELLPHONE SUPERSALES

BARGAIN MART
Tiangge with Air-Con
San Andres cor., Guerrero St., Malate, Manila

B/NEW w/SIM PACK - GLOBE, SMART, TALK & TEXT

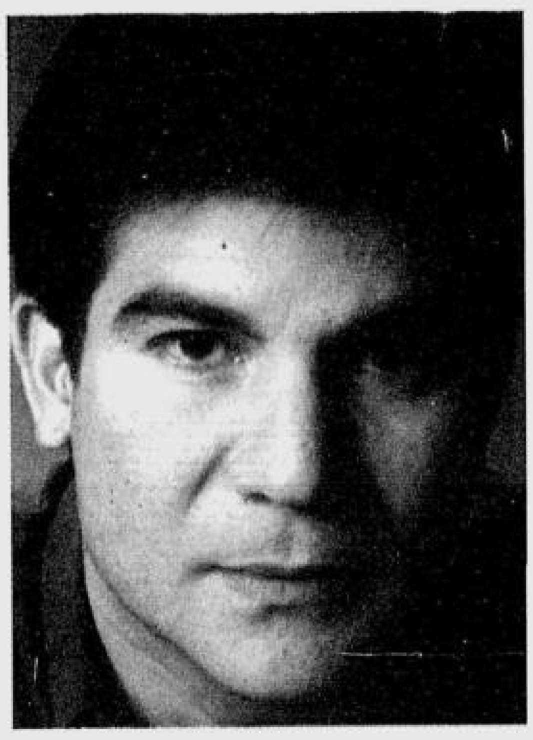
NOKIA 3310	8,199	MOTOROLA 30	2,799
NOKIA 3210	6,199	SIEMENS A35	3,499
NOKIA 5110	4,999	SIEMENS C28	3,499
ALCATEL 300	5,399	MOTOROLA T2288	4,199
ERICSON 2618	5,199	NOKIA 6210	13,199

TOYS, CLOTHES, KIDSWEAR, APPLIANCES, BAGS, SHOES, NOVELTY ITEMS, COMPUTER RENTALS, BILLIARDS, VIDEO GAMES

Store Hour: Sun to Thu > 10 AM - 10 PM • Fri. to Sat. > 10 AM - 12 MN

Call Tel. Nos.: 400-6420/23 for info.

MRS. BINAY



MANZANO

Vice Mayor Manzano to file graft raps vs Mayor Binay

MAKATI City Vice Mayor Eduardo Manzano is set to file graft charges against Mayor Elenita Binay this week for the allegedly illegal approval of several questionable ordinances and resolutions.

Manzano yesterday said in a news conference that he would also file charges of dishonesty, oppression, misconduct in office, gross negligence or dereliction of duty, not only against the mayor but against members of the Sangguniang Panglungsod ng Makati who reportedly had a hand in the illegal act.

The city's legal officer, lawyer Jewel Bulos, called Manzano's plan politically motivated.

"The election season has started," Bulos said. "This is obviously the reason behind (his) announcement."

Manzano said in the news conference that the charges would be filed either with the Office of the President or Office of the Ombudsman.

He said that when Mayor Binay signed Ordinance 2000-081, which would appropriate P4.267 billion as city budget for 2001, and Resolution 2000-220, which would renew the contract with the city's garbage haulers, without his certification, she violated the law.

He explained that the law provides that ordinances passed by the local council should have the vice mayor's certification before the mayor could sign them into law.

Manzano is questioning both documents, which are still pending in his office. He said although the city government has stressed that the ordinance and the resolution were urgent, no law compels him to endorse an ordinance if he thought it would be prejudicial to the people.

He said he could not, in conscience, approve an ordinance appropriating more than P600 million in public funds to purchase furniture for the new 22-story City Hall while the country's economy is in a downspin.

"*Ni walang* itemization *para sa mga* furniture *na bibilhin*," he asked. "How can I endorse that kind of an ordinance?"

Earlier, Makati barangay officials assailed Manzano for his refusal to endorse the ordinances which they said is affecting the delivery of basic services to their constituents.

Manzano insisted he is only trying to make more efficient the delivery of basic services to the people of Makati by studying thoroughly all ordinances being approved by the city council, especially those involving the disbursement of public funds.

City legal officer Bulos said in a statement that "it is an open secret in Makati" that Manzano would run for mayor against Binay in the May election.

Bulos said Manzano should explain why he took time to announce that he would file charges when he had claimed that some of the acts he attributed to the mayor were committed a year ago.

"Clearly, the timing is suspect and the motive is obvious," Bulos said. *Nelson F. Flores*

Couple nabbed for stealing motel phones

POLICE on Monday arrested a couple who allegedly had the habit of stealing telephones from motels in Caloocan City.

Facing theft charges before the Caloocan City prosecutor's office are contractor Lucito Santos, 45, and his live-in partner Ofelia Esquival, both of Spring Driver, Congressional Village, Quezon City.

They were arrested immediately after they checked in at Aliw Inn in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan at about 7 a.m. Monday.

Members of the Caloocan police and motel employees set a trap for Santos and Esquival, whom they had been suspected of stealing telephones whenever they checked in at the motel, police said.

The suspects parked their car in the motel garage and, while they walked into their room, the policemen searched the vehicle.

Police said they found in the trunk of the car several telephones from the motel.

Prior to the arrest, motel employees noticed that telephones often went missing whenever the couple checked in at the motel, police said.

Santos and Esquival allegedly replaced the stolen units with older models. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Supervisor stabbed dead in Glorietta

A JANITORIAL firm supervisor was robbed and stabbed dead in Glorietta in Makati City Monday night, police said.

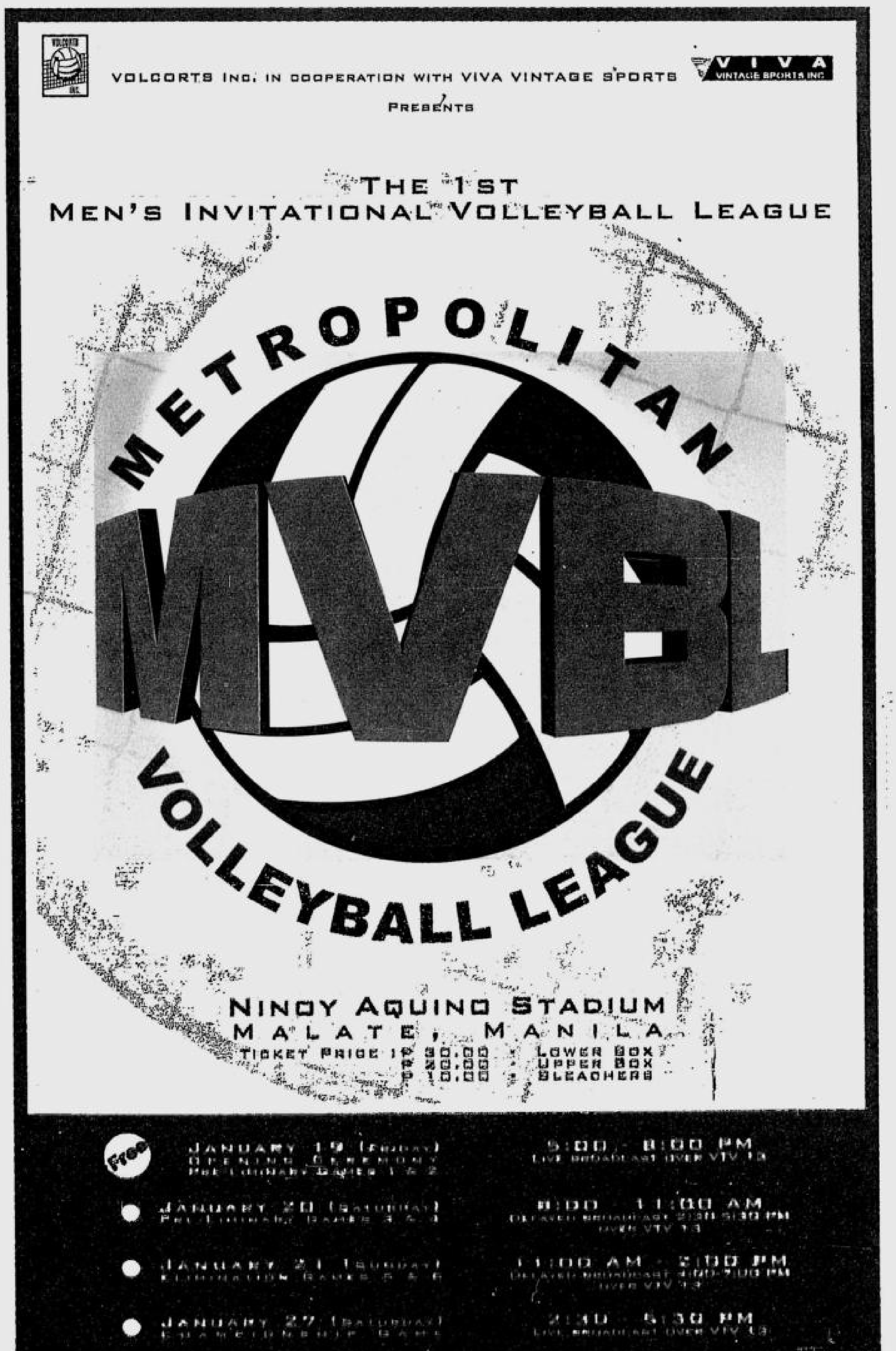
Orlando Navarro, 50, of Service One Corp., was pronounced dead on arrival at the Makati Medical Center, where witnesses in the mall had rushed him, police said.

Navarro's unidentified killer escaped. *Nelson F. Flores*

Wazzzzup?!!

8th day BAR • CAFE ST. FRANCIS SQ. ORTIGAS CTR.	3RD ANGLE ALBUM LAUNCHING	NO MINIMUM CHARGE 634.7696/634.7698
AUDIOTORIUM 23 WEST AVE., QUEZON CITY	RUBBERBAND	374.2330/373.5574
ACOUSTICS & BILLIARDS Bugsy BASEMENT, #170 TOMAS MORATO	ROLAND & FRANCIS 10 am-5 am 373-7181/83	FOR SOLO PLAYERS GAMEMATES AVAILABLE
Cowboy GRILL BRGY. ALMANZA LAS PIÑAS	SERSIDE ENSEMBLES	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎801.7644
Cowboy GRILL 1190 ADRIATICO ST., MANILA	REPLIKA/IB AGENDA DECADE SOCIETY	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy GRILL 411 REMEDIOS ST., MALATE, MLA	GOALKEYS FEEDBACK	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎521.8143
Cowboy GRILL NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY	SWEET BLOOD KNIGHTS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎453.4329
Just Kiding YALE ST. COR AURORA, CUBAO	SWERVE SYMPOSIUM	P50 ENTRANCE FEE ☎913.7202
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	FREE VERSE POP CYCLE/X-PROJECT	P200 CONSUMABLE 411.9931/926.1260
EXAMINER'S LITE n'LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST., Q.C.	MANNY BIG DEAL/EDGE	HAPPY HOUR 6-9PM P50 ENTRANCE FEE
LIVE! at the ridge 206A KATIPUNAN RD., Q.C.	TIME & A HALF	P200 CONSUMABLE ☎439.3255
PADI'S POINT MANILA SM MARCELINO ACROSS SM MLA.	REVEAL	NO ENTRANCE FEE 527.6180/527.6211
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CABUENA, MALATE	TH-3 VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎522.0429
OUTSIDE METRO MANILA		
Cowboy GRILL BIÑAN, LAGUNA	PRYZM STAY TUNED	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎(049)511.7268
Ka Freddie Music Restaurant MARCOS HIGHWAY, ANTIPOLO	NONOY BAJAR JAMES CAÑEJA	P20 ENTRANCE FEE ☎677.0795
PartyPlace SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA	THE BIRTH	BLAKDYAK - JAN. 20 TRUE FAITH - JAN. 27

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17 912.8783



VOLCORTS INC. IN COOPERATION WITH VIVA VINTAGE SPORTS PRESENTS

THE 1ST MEN'S INVITATIONAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

METROPOLITAN MVBL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

NINOY AQUINO STADIUM
MALATE, MANILA

TICKET PRICE: ₱ 30.00 - LOWER BOX
₱ 20.00 - UPPER BOX
₱ 10.00 - BLEACHERS

Free JANUARY 19 (FRIDAY) OPENING CEREMONY PRELIMINARY GAMES 1 & 2 — 5:00 - 8:00 PM LIVE BROADCAST OVER VTV 13

JANUARY 20 (SATURDAY) PRELIMINARY GAMES 3 & 4 — 8:00 - 11:00 AM DELAYED BROADCAST 2:30-5:30 PM OVER VTV 13

JANUARY 21 (SUNDAY) ELIMINATION GAMES 5 & 6 — 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM DELAYED BROADCAST 4:00-7:00 PM OVER VTV 13

JANUARY 27 (SATURDAY) CHAMPIONSHIP GAME — 2:30 - 5:30 PM LIVE BROADCAST OVER VTV 13

FOR INQUIRIES CALL: [illegible] PARADIGM CLIQUE MARKETING & ADVERTISING 1104 JOLLIBEE PLAZA, EMERALD AVE., ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG TEL. NOS.: 6372194 / 6347181 / 6347156 / 6347173.

SANCTIONED BY: PHILIPPINE AMATEUR VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION (PAVA)

Driver killed, 8 injured in bus-truck collision

A PROVINCIAL bus driver was killed and eight other people, including a policeman, were seriously injured when the bus rammed into a 10-wheeler truck in Cubao, Quezon City yesterday.

Pablo Balolong, driver of Five Star Bus and resident of Rizal Avenue, Caloocan City, died at the wheel of the air-con bus after the bus collided with the Fuso truck driven by Pablo Z. Ayuman, 42, of Cupang, Antipolo City, said investigator PO2 Perlito Datu.

The collision injured Ayuman and PO3 Felix Agoncillo Jr. of the Narcotics Command in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Also injured were passengers Eleccion G. Alaba, 31; Dionisio M. Fortuna, 55; Maricris T. Fabian, 25; all of Angeles City; Roberto L. Candidato, 26, of Gen. Wood, San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City; Romulo S. Manalo, 32, of Sucat, Parañaque; and Conrado D. basa, 40, of Mangaldan, Pangasinan.

The injured were brought to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Datu said.

He said the truck and the bus collided on Edsa in front of the Farmer's Plaza at about 4:30 a.m. yesterday.

They had just emerged from the Cubao underpass when the bus rammed into the rear of the truck.

Philip C. Tubeza

Policeman shoots colleague over escorting Bicol bus

COMMUTERS at a busy bus station in Cubao, Quezon City were stunned Sunday afternoon when a Camp Crame policeman shot his fellow Traffic Management Group (TMG) agent inside a parked bus.

The two policemen were allegedly arguing over who should escort the bus to Bicol.

Cubao police investigators could not say if the escort operation of the TMG agents was legitimate or if the two were moonlighting.

SPO1 Noe Urbiztondo, 37, of the TMG in Camp Crame, was arrested after he shot fellow agent PO3 Wilmer Solomon at the Southern Pacific Bus terminal at the Araneta Center, said investigator SPO3 Romulo Tirado.

Tirado said commuters noticed the two policemen arguing inside a parked Southern Pacific bus at 12:35 p.m. Sunday. Solomon was with another policeman identified as PO3 Dominador de la Cruz.

Urbiztondo and Solomon were debating on who should escort the bus, which was bound for Tobaco, Albay.

During the height of their argument, Urbiztondo grabbed De la Cruz's cal. 45 service firearm.
He then shot Solomon and hit him in the right thigh.

Urbiztondo then took Solomon's pistol and fled.

But Cubao policemen caught him along P. Tuazon at the back of Ali Mall after a 10-minute chase.

Urbiztondo is now detained at the Cubao police station.

Philip C. Tubeza

Store robbery suspect falls

PARAÑAQUE City police on Monday arrested a Davao del Sur native who they said is one of two suspects in the series of robberies of convenience stores in the city and neighboring areas.

Arrested was Carlo Albite Albios, 25, of Riverside, Tambo, Parañaque and Digos, Davao del Sur. Seized from him was a .38 cal. pistol he and a companion allegedly used in robbing Pao Mini Mart on Qurino Avenue in Tambo.

The arrest was made by one of Mayor Joey P. Marquez's mobile support units that regularly patrol the city's 16 barangays. .

Sherwin Espiritu, a utility man of Pao Mini Mart, alerted a patrol car about the escape of the two robbers whom he saw board a passenger jeepney that headed toward Don Galo.

PO2 Jesus Brigola and PO2 Joseph Bernardo chased and caught Albios, although the other suspect, whom Albios identified as Brando Palma, escaped.

Police said Albios took P3,550 from the mini-mart cashier while Palma was poking his gun at another store worker.

The cash was recovered from Albios. The store's workers positively identified him as one of the two robbers.

Newly designated Parañaque City police chief Col. Ronald Romero Estilles, who presented the suspect to the Office of the Mayor yesterday morning, said the arrest could lead to the solution of the robberies of convenience stores in Parañaque and neighboring cities and towns.

The mayor yesterday asked owners of convenience stores already victimized by robbers to check out the suspect at the Parañaque City police station on Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Avenue in La Huerta.

Forbes folk defend 2 women banned from impeachment hearing

By Nelson Flores

RESIDENTS of Forbes Park, a posh residential area in Makati City, have defended and extended their support to fellow villagers Rosanna Fores and Bettina Aboitiz, who were banned by the Senate tribunal from attending the impeachment proceedings.

In a letter to Chief Justice Hilario Davide and members of the Senate dated Jan. 12, Jose Concepcion Jr., barangay Forbes Park chair, lamented the failure of the tribunal to give due process to Fores and Aboitiz before deciding to ban them from attending future sessions of the impeachment hearings.

Concepcion said the Senate action against the two women who, aside from being residents are also barangay officials, made it very difficult for Forbes Park residents to appreciate their work toward "the program of having a high regard for the members of both Houses of Congress."

He said members of Congress should undertake corrective measures to restore public confidence on them.

Concepcion said Forbes Park residents who witnessed the incident on Jan. 8 were aghast that their neighbors were publicly humiliated and even detained for more than an hour at the office of the Senate Secretary.

He said later events showed that the decision to ban the two women from the august halls of the Senate was without basis.

"It appears that they were only craning their necks because something was blocking their view and it was at that point that they were seen by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago," Concepcion said.

Fores, Aboitiz and Dante Jimenez, a member of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, were expelled from the Senate tribunal and banned from attending the impeachment proceeding after they allegedly violated the Senate's rules for guests and viewers of the impeachment proceedings.

How Ramon Revilla surpassed himself

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE DUSKY witness appeared tough, somewhat leathery. But the senator-judge, with lust in his eyes, must've sensed something very delicious in the simple subject.

No, Sen. Ramon Revilla's mouth did not actually water. But he pounced on newsman Emeterio Perez of the Daily Tribune, a prosecution witness in last week's Erap Estrada impeachment trial, like a glutton attacking a roasted suckling pig on the table.

The senator's eyes glittered, his tinted moustache quivered as he rose to examine the newspaperman. Revilla smiled. Because Perez had been jobless for months, clamored the senator-judge, it should follow that he was paid to do that hack job against President Estrada.

"Matagal kang walang trabaho, kung ganuon, sabihin mo kung magkano ang ibinayad sa iyo para sulatin mo yung articulo laban sa Presidente?" Revilla said.

Perez was in simple attire, the tyrannical senator in expensive blue suit. But the newspaperman refused to be dazzled. Perez quietly explained it was wrong for the senator to assume that a newspaperman would sell his name, his very soul, all because he needed cash.

"Kumakain po naman kami nang tatlong beses isang araw," Perez answered.

* * *

Nothing much had been reported about this very sickening incident in the Estrada impeachment trial last week.

My friend Pete Aguila yesterday said Sen. Revilla had subsequent explained why he rose to ask that silly, baseless question.

Well, whether he had beaten his breast and chanted an apology, whatever sort of contrition he had mouthed, Revilla had betrayed the shallow wonderings of his mind.

Actually, I've always revered Sen. Revilla both as an uncle and dear friend. The senator, a boxing aficionado, had been extra nice to me in the many times that we would bump into each other during big fights.

However, as a reporter who started pounding the beat when Ramon Revilla was still a leaner, more credible action star, I must remind the senator from Cavite that, if he had nothing better to say, he should just stare at the ceiling and wait for the lizards to come out.

That uncalled for attack on Mr. Perez, known for his humility, integrity and dedication, was an obscene dig at Philippine media itself.

* * *

You see, in his sleazy world in the movies and at the Bureau of Customs, it's easy to assume Revilla had regularly dealt with cheap, unprincipled bogus newsmen. You know, the silly sort who never failed to tick off a favorable story but only for a fee.

If Revilla had, say, left the mosquitoes and strayed off to places where more honorable, well-read people operate and converge, he would be startled to discover that Philippine media are not as cheap as he had blindly suspected.

Revilla obviously found Mr. Perez's answer, which dignified, stressed and confirmed the integrity of the journalism profession, unpalatable.

Revilla was jolted. The misinformed former actor must've thought he would be able to score something memorable and cute with his latest question.

Sorry, but just like with that noisy, over-acting senator-judge who had professed with an affected accent that it was normal for law practitioners to always seek bigger pay, Revilla has instead succeeded in baring an immoral side of his appetite.

Something in Revilla's intestines said honor, if its owner happens to be poor and hungry, could be bought at a bargain.

* * *

Of course, we have something to be thankful for.

At least, in Revilla's case, he did not go wild and vent his ire on the gallery after Mr. Perez, with his honest reply, had put the dazed, baffled senator in his proper place.

No, there were no tantrums from the former action star.

But, as Sen. Raul Roco had previously spoken on behalf of honorable lawyers, I thought someone among the more honest members of the impeachment tribunal, the Honorable Chief Justice included, would stand up to say something in defense of Philippine media.

Nobody dared. Except the intrepid Mr. Perez himself.

Anyway, Revilla, after having gladly and successfully informed the impeachment court how much P1 million in thousand-peso bills weigh, should've stopped and kept quiet.

He should've rested on his laurels.

Why? Well, with that classic finding, that a million in one-thousand-peso bills weighs less than a kilo, Revilla had already surpassed himself.

Philippine media never really expected the senator from Cavite, with an actor's hair near his nose, could be sharp and astute enough to weigh what's relevant, what's not.

CAFÉ ON WHEELS
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Café Carts Corp. president Rico Herrera check out Nescafe carts that will be deployed all over the city to sell premium Nestlé products such as coffee, iced tea, chocolate drink, noodles and candies. The project is a joint livelihood program of Café Carts and the Kababaihan ng Maynila headed by Mrs. Eveline "Beng" Atienza.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, January 17, 2000
2nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Heb 7:1-3, 15-17**
Gospel:	**Mk 3:1-6**

Again Jesus entered the synagogue. A man who had a paralyzed hand was there and some people watched Jesus: Would he heal the man on the sabbath? If he did they could accuse him.

Jesus said to the man with the paralyzed hand, "Stand here in the center." Then he asked them, "What does the Law allow us to do on the sabbath? To do good or to do harm? To save life or to kill?" But they were silent.

Then Jesus looked around at them with anger and deep sadness because they had closed their minds. And he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was healed. But as soon as the Pharisees left, they met with Herod's supporters, looking for a way to destroy Jesus.

Commentary

There is a silence that indicates attentive interest, and a silence that implies a stubborn unwillingness to listen. The pharisees, in today's reading, show no interest at what Jesus points out. They have already fixed their mind on the wrong that they judged him to be doing. Show them a doughnut and they see a hole. Show them a half-full bottle and they judge it to be half-empty. This is one of the few references where we are told expressly that Jesus got really upset. "He looked around at them with anger and deep sadness because they had closed their minds."

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

Slain cop's best friend nabbed while trying to avenge his death, say probers

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHEN PO2 Bienvenido B. Batac died on Thursday after a shootout with two taxi robbers in Quezon City, his best friend, traffic aide Alfredo D. Irinco, was not at his bedside. Irinco was supervising traffic in Cainta, Rizal.

On Sunday morning, Irinco went to the Quirino Labor Hospital where his friend died from a gunshot wound in the stomach. Irinco was armed with a loaded *paltik* .38 revolver.

When police arrested him, Irinco said he only wanted to know where Batac's wake was being held. But police believe otherwise.

Police think Irinco wanted to avenge the death of his friend by killing the other suspect in the shootout, Jun Abernas, who was in the intensive care unit of the hospital after he was shot by Batac in the abdomen during the shootout.

The other suspected robber who was killed during the firefight remains unidentified.

Irinco, 43, of 11th Street in Cainta, Rizal, was arrested on Sunday outside the ICU after police noticed his suspicious interest in the condition of Abernas, said PO2 Roger Estevez.

"Irinco kept on asking hospital employees where Abernas was," Estevez said. "When he was told that the suspect was in the ICU, the policemen assigned to guard Abernas noticed him peeking from outside."

When SPO1 Rodrigo Aguilar, who was guarding Abernas, asked Irinco what he wanted, Aguilar said Irinco introduced himself as a reporter and even produced a media ID card.

But when Aguilar noted that the ID was old and almost torn, Irinco admitted he was a Cainta traffic enforcer. Aguilar also noticed a gun handle protruding from the waistline of Irinco's pants.

Aguilar said he prepared for what might happen, but Irinco voluntarily surrendered his gun to him.

The gun was found to be unlicensed and contained six live bullets.

Irinco told the Inquirer he brought the gun to protect himself when he goes to Batac's wake. He said the "gunman might be there."

Irinco said he went to the hospital to ask where Batac's wake was being held.

"I was not able to go to him right after the shooting because I was busy with my work," Irinco said. "When I had some free time Sunday, I went to headquarters but they did not know where Batac's wake was."

Batac, a rookie policeman of the Cainta police, was shot Thursday while trying to arrest two men who held up an FX taxi in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. He was waiting for a ride home to Sampaloc, Manila when he responded to the taxi passengers' cries for help.

Irinco is detained in the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit jail in Camp Karingal and faces charges of illegal possession of firearms and violation of the election gun ban.

Asistio bribing Caloocan people . . .

(From page A19)

referring to the impeachment trial of President Estrada. "They need mass support (in case of an) acquittal to prevent civil unrest."

But Asistio said Erice and Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo are making noise only because "they have no genuine concern for charity."

"I've been doing this even before I entered politics," Asistio said. "Caloocan residents know this. Perhaps, Erice and Malonzo are reacting because sharing is foreign to them.

"I'm happy I'm being accused of sharing with the poor and not stealing from them," he added.

He said he is disappointed with Erice, whose accusations he said have become more frequent now that he is part of Malonzo's political bloc.

"I'm not trying to brag about whatever help I had given him, but Erice knows very well I was always there for him," Asistio said. "I even looked for the best specialist in the country to treat him when he fell sick a few years ago. We should go beyond politics."

Asistio is expected to challenge Malonzo for the mayoralty in the May elections.

Yesterday, Erice said Asistio should discipline his sons "first before you run for city mayor."

Asistio has been criticized by political foes for the frequent brushes of his sons Peting and Patchot with the law. Both sons are named Luisito.

"How can he govern 1.5 million residents when he can't even discipline his own children?" Erice said of Asistio.

"Government starts with the family," he said. "You can't expect to rule effectively if you can't even exercise parental authority over your children."

Early last year, Peting, the older of the two sons, was shot and arrested during a drug buy-bust operation in his apartment in Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan.

Months later, police hunted down Pachot for allegedly shooting his drunken landlord during a heated argument.

"The people should be warned that if they vote for Asistio, they would inherit the congressman's problem children," Erice told the INQUIRER.

"Police are afraid to arrest Peting and Pachot because they're the congressman's sons," he said. "The sons even curse the policemen whenever they're invited for questioning."

But Asistio brushed aside Erice's unsolicited advise.

"It's an old issue, really," Asistio said. "Caloocan residents know I do not tolerate my children. I have not been seeing Peting and Pachot for many years because of the problems they gave me.

"The administration is just making noise because it knows I have a great advantage over Malonzo in the mayoralty race."

Erice also warned residents that voting any Asistio in the May elections "would only arrest the city's progress."

"This is the Asistios' last-ditch effort to restore their political dynasty," Erice said. "They would do anything to regain power. Losing (in the race) would mean the end of their political career."

Asistio's older brother Macario Jr. is said to be planning to run for congressman in the city's second district.

Macario lost the mayoralty race in 1995 to Malonzo, ending more than 30 years of Asistio domination of Caloocan politics.

Malonzo is eyeing his third and last term.

Australian cleared . . .

(From page A19)

complainant for various positions in his hotels in Angeles City and even sponsored her studies in a computer school. He said he even gave her a room in one of his hotels.

The complainant claimed that she accompanied him and four other female employees to a party at the Bart's Hotel in Olongapo in August. She said she got dizzy, fell asleep and later woke up nude, her sex organ hurting and bleeding, and Prentice asleep beside her.

She said that the following month, she and Prentice went on a business trip to Manila and checked in at the Royal Palm Plaza Hotel in Ermita, where she claimed Prentice entered her room and raped her again.

She said Prentice and his henchmen illegally detained her and guarded her most of the time: She said she only got in touch with her relatives in Laguna through the telephone to let them know about her predicament.

But the court found the defense's version of the events as "more plausible and persuasive, and has to be accorded more weight," than the prosecution's.

If the complainant was indeed drugged in the first case and then raped by Prentice, it was not natural for the accused to sleep beside her afterward, since she would surely discover what happened to her upon waking up and he would be the logical suspect, the court said.

In the second case, the court found it odd that she did not make any effort to escape, use the telephone or raise any outcry to let other people, such as hotel staff and guests, know she was raped.

"Such quietude, passivity and inactivity created in the mind of the court reasonable doubt as to her truthfulness and good faith," the judge said.

The court also learned that the complainant was not guarded when she went to school and could have gone easily to police.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

SM Dial-A-Movie • Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
*2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
4	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HIGHLANDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SUPER IDOL

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
3	DTS	RED PLANET
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUPER IDOL

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SUPER IDOL
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	LITTLE NICKY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
9	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	RED PLANET
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
3	DOLBY SURROUND	MIRACLE FIGHTER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	MEET THE PARENTS
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE 6TH DAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SPIRIT WARRIORS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SUPER IDOL
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUPER IDOL

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	LITTLE NICKY
4	DTS	HIGHLANDER
5	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUPER IDOL
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SUPER IDOL
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KANGKONG
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
7	DTS	THE RED PLANET
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	HIGHLANDER
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE RED PLANET
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HIGHLANDER
9	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
10	ULTRA SURROUND	SUPER IDOL

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE RED PLANET
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MARKOVA
2	ULTRA SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
3	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	CROCODILE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DEATH ROW
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CRACKER JACK
5	ULTRA SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	HIGHLANDER
8	ULTRA SURROUND	LOST SOULS

SM PAMPANGA 7120015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE RED PLANET
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HIGHLANDER
3	DOLBY SURROUND	TANGING YAMAN
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE 6TH DAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD	GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound		GREENBELT	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 RED PLANET	1 MEET THE PARENTS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	5 LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	1 LITTLE NICKY In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	1 THE RED PLANET THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 TANGING YAMAN	2 REMEMBER THE TITANS In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 LITTLE NICKY In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 THE RED PLANET In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 LITTLE NICKY In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA	3 THE RED PLANET THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 HIGHLANDER: ENDGAME In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	3 REMEMBER THE TITANS In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 THE 6TH DAY	4 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (Phil. Premiere) Art Film In DTS DIGITAL SOUND		4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage	4 HIGHLANDER: ENDGAME In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 BALAHIBONG PUSA In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	RED PLANET
2 (SDDS)	LITTLE NICKY
3 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
4 GOLD (DTS)	RED PLANET
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	HIGHLANDER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	TANGING YAMAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
8 [illegible]	THE 6TH DAY
9 [illegible]	SUPER IDOL
10 [illegible]	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	SUPER IDOL
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS)	KANGKONG
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3 (Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RED PLANET
2 (DTS)	SUPER IDOL
3	LITTLE NICKY

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	SUPER IDOL
3	KANGKONG

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	SUPER IDOL
3	KANGKONG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RED PLANET
5	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	SUPER IDOL
2	RESERVE
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	HIGHLANDER
5	LITTLE NICKY
6	RED PLANET
7	KANGKONG
8	THE 6TH DAY

Uniwide Metromall (Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074

1	TATLONG PUSO ISANG PANGARAP
2	WHO AM I
3	FIRST STRIKE
4	ARMOUR OF GOD
5	JACKY CHAN FESTIVAL
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall (Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

WATCH 3 MOVIES FOR ONLY ₱30.00

1	
2	HOT SPOT
3	LABAN KUNG LABAN
4	CRIME STOPPER

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	DEATH ROW

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	KANGKONG
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	SUPER IDOL

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
A	KANGKONG

JC Cinema (Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	SUPER IDOL

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	TANGING YAMAN
4	HIGHLANDER
5	MEET THE PARENTS
6	SUPER IDOL
7 (DTS)	RED PLANET
8 (SDDS)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
9 (DOLBY)	LITTLE NICKY

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	KANGKONG
4	SUPER IDOL
5	
6	

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	SUPER IDOL
4 (SDDS)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
5	LITTLE NICKY
6 (DOLBY)	HIGHLANDER
7 (DTS)	RED PLANET
8	KANGKONG
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RED PLANET
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	TANGING YAMAN
4	LITTLE NICKY
5 (SDDS)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
6	SUPERIDOL
7 (DOLBY)	HIGHLANDER
8	KANGKONG

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	KANGKONG
2	THE 6TH DAY
3 (DTS)	RED PLANET
4	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 (SDDS)	REMEMBER THE TITANS
6 (DOLBY)	SUPER IDOL
7 (DOLBY)	HIGHLANDER

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Sampaquita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	
Lords	SUPER IDOL
Jennet	NAKED INSTINCT

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	RED PLANET
2	SUPER IDOL
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	LITTLE NICKY

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	SUPER IDOL

Super Cinerama (Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	RED PLANET
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	LITTLE NICKY
4	HIGHLANDER
5	KANGKONG

Divisoria Mall (Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	SUPER IDOL
4	RED PLANET
5	PING LACSON STORY
6	HIGHLANDER

Baclaran LRT Cinema tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3	SUPER IDOL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	KANGKONG
3 (DTS)	SUPER IDOL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS)	SUPER IDOL
3 (DOLBY)	RED PLANET
4	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RED PLANET
2	SUPER IDOL
3	KANGKONG
4 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 (DTS)	RED PLANET
4	SUPER IDOL
5	

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	
3	

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	
3	

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	TANGING YAMAN
2	THE 6TH DAY
3	GATAS

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	KANGKONG

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	RED PLANET
2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
3	SUPER IDOL
4	HIGHLANDER

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 (DTS)	SUPER IDOL

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALAHIBONG PUSA

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	
2	
3	

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	
2	
3	
4	

Berma tel 879.2168

1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	SUPER IDOL
2	KANGKONG
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	RED PLANET

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	MEET THE PARENTS
2	TANGING YAMAN
3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 (DTS EX)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FASHION ANGELS
BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

FASHION ANGELS
BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 734-5012

a special presentation

Acoustic Jive at Ciao

ACOUSTIC Jive delivers pop-jazz entertainment as they continue their Wednesday night series tonight at Ciao Bar-Ristorante Italiano at Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati.

The group's repertoire will feature the best fusion of the classic sound and favorite tunes that satisfy every music enthusiast's mood.

For inquiries, call 867-3333 or Maxi-Media International at 813-8999.

Monthly concert series

IT'S a brand new year for partying and 105.1 Crossover surely knows how.

Tomorrow night, Thursday, the monthly concert series, "Crossover Live," opens with Time and a Half at Chef and Brewer Bar at the Ground Floor of AIC Gold Tower, Emerald Ave. corner Sapphire St., Ortigas Center.

Time and a Half is known in the live music scene for their unique repertoire of R&B and pop-jazz, spiced with mainstream pop.

Expect an evening filled with songs from Jennifer Lopez, D' Sound, David Benoit and Kevyn Lettau.

The event is presented by BPI Express Cash, Globe Telecom, Globelines, E-Store-Dash Exchange Dot Com and Philippine Daily Inquirer, in cooperation with Theragran-M, Cafe Puro Jade Blend and Jun Saldivar Photography.

For details, tune in to Crossover 105.1.

Lee Robin gets Awit Award

CONCORDE Records artist Lee Robin Salazar captured last year's Awit Award's best new male recording artist for his single, "Sane."

Lee Robin also composed the song, which was arranged by Marvin Querido.

The single is culled from Lee Robin's self-titled album, produced by Ogie Alcasid for Concorde Records.

With his Awit Award grandeur, Lee adds another feather to his cap, and pop music stardom cannot be far behind.

SALAZAR. Best new male recording artist.

LOUIE'S CINEMA

LOUIS THX It Will Change the Way You Hear and See Movies Forever

NOW SHOWING

RED PLANET

Starring:
Val Kilmer
Carrie Anne Moss
Tom Sizemore

January 17 - Wednesday

6:30 PM - Red Planet
8:50 PM - Red Planet
11:10 PM - Red Planet

Get a copy of the 3rd issue of Pelikula! Now available at Louies THX Cinema

LRP Foundation Inc. Louie's THX Cinema Bldg., Mile Long Compound Amorsolo St., Makati City Tel. No 751-20-10 Fax 892-33-49 www.louiesthx.com.ph

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS

e-mail:hto@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ERMITA 536-7609-14

❶ THE RED PLANET
❷ THE 6TH DAY
❸ BALAHIBONG PUSA
❹ REMEMBER THE TITANS
❺ HIGHLANDER
❻ LITTLE NICKY
❼ MEET THE PARENTS

GALLERIA

UNDER RENOVATION

Robinsons Movieworld aims to bring a new dimension to your viewing experience 10 brand new cinemas equipped with THX, DTS, SDDS, DOLBY DIGITAL soundsystem

IMUS (046)875-3838

❶ THE RED PLANET
❷ REMEMBER THE TITANS
❸ SUPER IDOL
❹ LITTLE NICKY
❺ HIGHLANDER
❻ BALAHIBONG PUSA

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

❶ MEET THE PARENTS
❷ TANGING YAMAN
❸ EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
❹ CROCODILES
❺ GATAS
❻ EX-CON

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TANGING YAMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEET THE PARENTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	KANGKONG
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BALAHIBONG PUSA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	BALAHIBONG PUSA
MIRAMAR	KATAYAN / BODY TO BODY
ODEON	BALAHIBONG PUSA
ODEON-2	RED PLANET
ROBEN	KANGKONG
TANDEM-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
TIMES	WHAT LIES BENEATH / ANACONDA 2000
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SA IYO ANG SARAP SA IYO ANG LIGAYA
ACT-2	ARAYY
ACT-3	HIRAM NA KATAWAN
ACT-4	BIRADOR
CORONET-2	BALAHIBONG PUSA
QUEZON-1	KANGKONG
REMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA
REMAR-2	KANGKONG
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
OCEAN CINEMA-A	LARO SA BAGA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	GUEVARRA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-61 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-2	THE 6TH DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KANGKONG
CINEMA-2	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-3	DEATH ROW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	SPIRIT WARRIORS
CINEMA-8	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
CINEMA-12	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-14	GATAS
CINEMA-15	TANGING YAMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-3	THE 6TH DAY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	REMEMBER THE TITANS
CINEMA-2	RED PLANET
CINEMA-3	HIGHLANDER
CINEMA-4	LITTLE NICKY
CINEMA-5	LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE
CINEMA-6	MEET THE PARENTS

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Utilizing soap operas for social change

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MOST of the time, radio and TV soap operas are criticized for their tendency to lull their audience into passivity with their stereotypical situations, escapist emotionalizing and cliché characters.

On Feb. 2 and 3, however, the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, the Philippine Committee of Global Legislators for a Balanced Environment and the House Committee on Education will convene a National Soap Opera Summit for Social Change at the House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, QC.

The summit will focus on the creative use of soap drama serials on radio and television to address various pressing social issues.

The idea is to use the popularity of the program type to make the mass viewing base more aware of problems and solutions related to poverty alleviation, environmental education, health and the welfare of women and children.

Instead of the usual cliché situations, soap operas can deal with real-life situations related to these and other social issues. Guest experts from abroad will share how soap operas have been successfully used in Mexico and Brazil in this regard.

Let's hope that the two-day summit will achieve concrete results by encouraging soap-opera producers to actually modify their programs' approach, and that we will see truly positive changes in their shows in the months to come.

In other words, what's most important is not what happens at the summit, but at the foot of the mountain, where the problems are all too real, and the need for actual solutions is great.

Tribute to Mon Vecin

A REUNION of bands will be held on Saturday, Jan. 20, in honor of ailing veteran rock 'n' roller **Mon Vecin**, a regular performer at RJ Bistro some years back. Mon used to be known as the Mike Love (Beach Boys soloist) of the Philippines.

A power-packed legendary '60s Band lineup will perform. It includes the original members of the Hi-Jacks and special guest **Ramon Jacinto**. The musical reunion unreels at 8 p.m. on Jan. 20 at The Hive Radio Café, 2284 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Call 894-2358.

TV treats

ON FRIDAY, Jan. 19 at 10 a.m. on Viva Cinema 23, **Rio Locsin** stars in "Aliw-iw, Ang Babaeng Pinagtaksilan ng Panahon."

At 1 p.m. on Star Movies, the film on view is "Life with Mickey." **Michael J. Fox** plays a former child star who is a washed-out agent—until he turns an 11-year-old pickpocket (**Christine Vidal**) into a TV commercial sensation.

At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Notting Hill" dramatizes the unlikely love story of a superstar (**Julia Roberts**) and an obsure bookstore owner (**Hugh Grant**).

At 11 p.m., the National Geographic channel presents "The Hunted Bear," a nature documentary about Russian biologist **Valentin Pazhitnov** and his wife **Suetlana**, and their life-long mission to save and care for orphaned bear cubs.

On Sunday, Jan. 21 at 9 a.m. on Star Movies, **Steve Martin** and **Gabriel Byrne** costar in "A Simple Twist of Fate," in which the two actors play an abandoned child's two fathers.

At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "The Thin Red Line," the acclaimed war drama, stars Sean Penn, George Clooney and other gifted actors.

At 9 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, **Ben Dark** retraces the footsteps of pioneer Australian explores in "A Breed of Their Own."

TV Star

WITH each copy of the January 2001 issue of the cable guide, TV Star, comes a free poster-calendar of Viva Cinema 23's gorgeous stars—**Joyce Jimenez, Sunshine Cruz, Aga Muhlach, Dingdong Dantes**, etc.

Quote, unquote

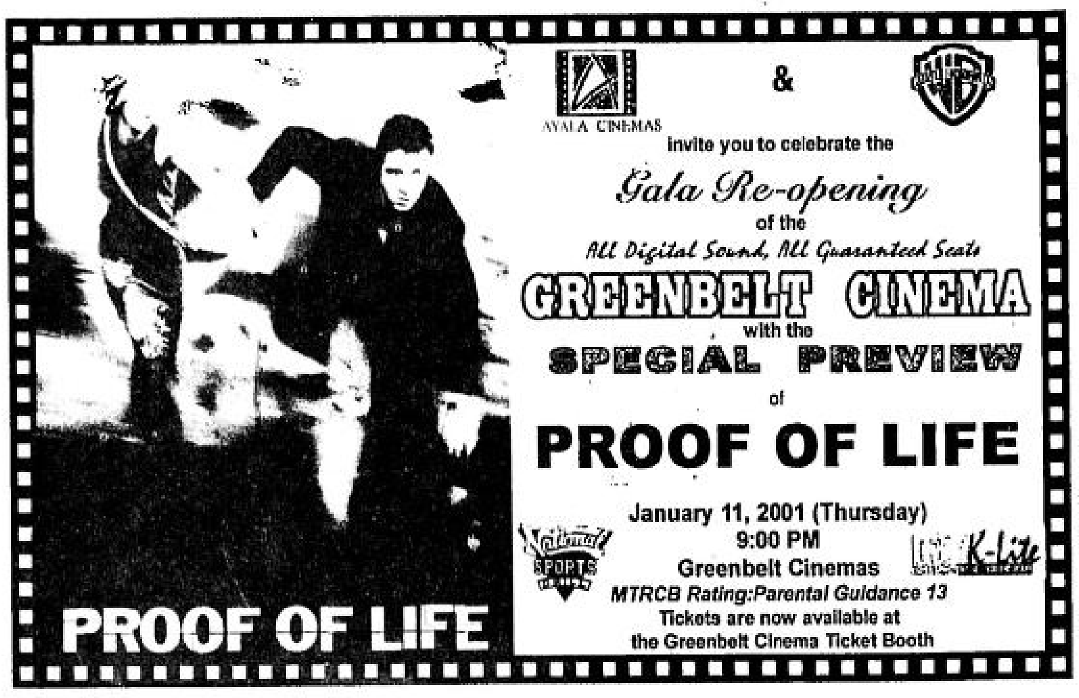
HARRY S. Truman: I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it.

Lord Chesterfield: In matters of religion and matrimony, I never give advice – because I will have no man's torments in this world or the next laid to my charge!

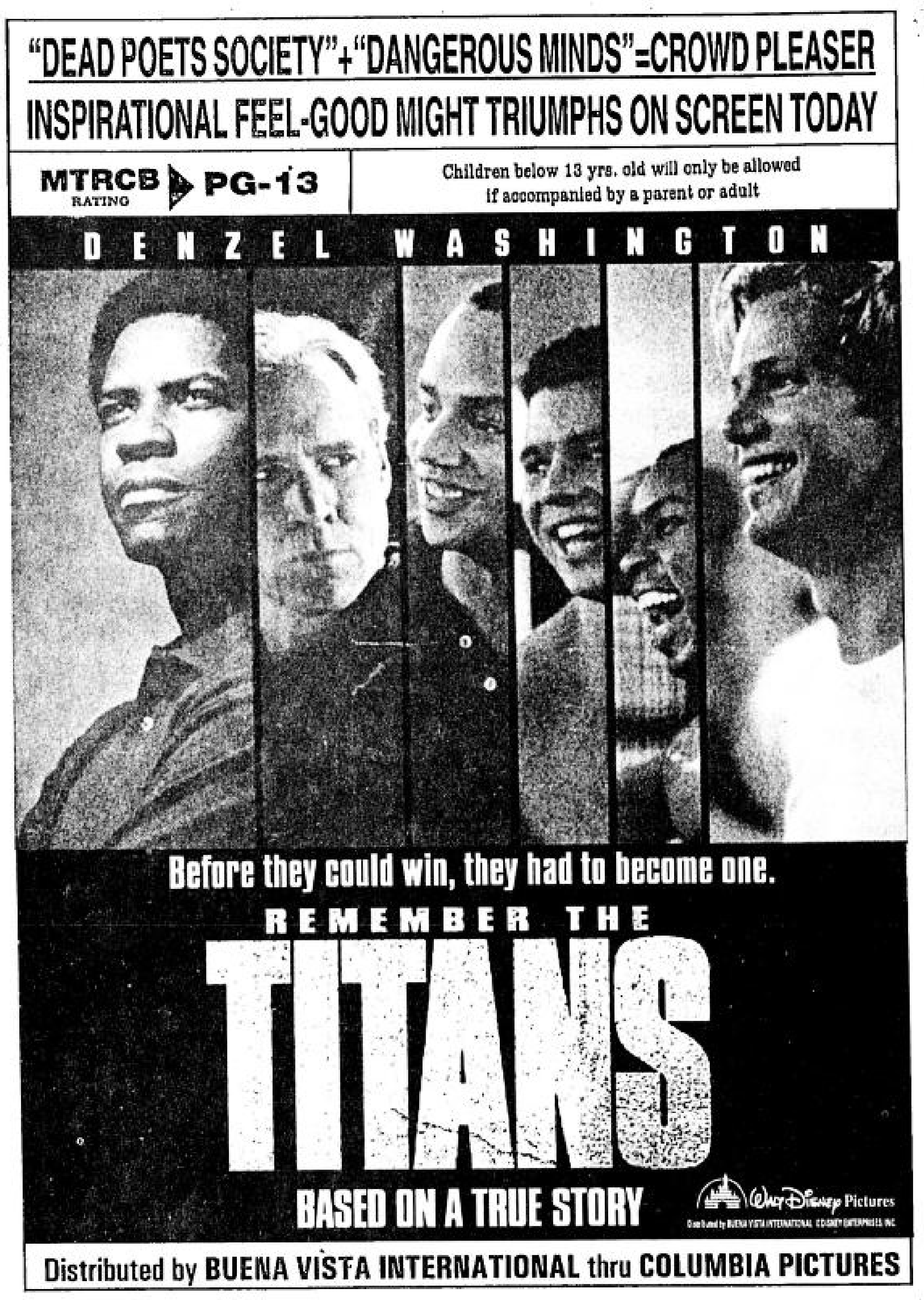
Erica Jong: Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't.

MYTOWN IN THIS TOWN

Irish boy band Mytown, whose single "Now That I Found You" is on its way to becoming a big hit, is in Manila to promote their self-titled album from MCA Universal through radio interviews, TV appearances and special performances. Marc Sheehan, 22, Danny O'Donoghue, 18, Paul Walker, 20, and Terry Daly, 20, all from Dublin, will be at SM Cebu City on Friday, Jan. 19, and at SM Megamall on Saturday, Jan. 20. Also on Saturday, they will appear on "Eat Bulaga" and "Master Showman."



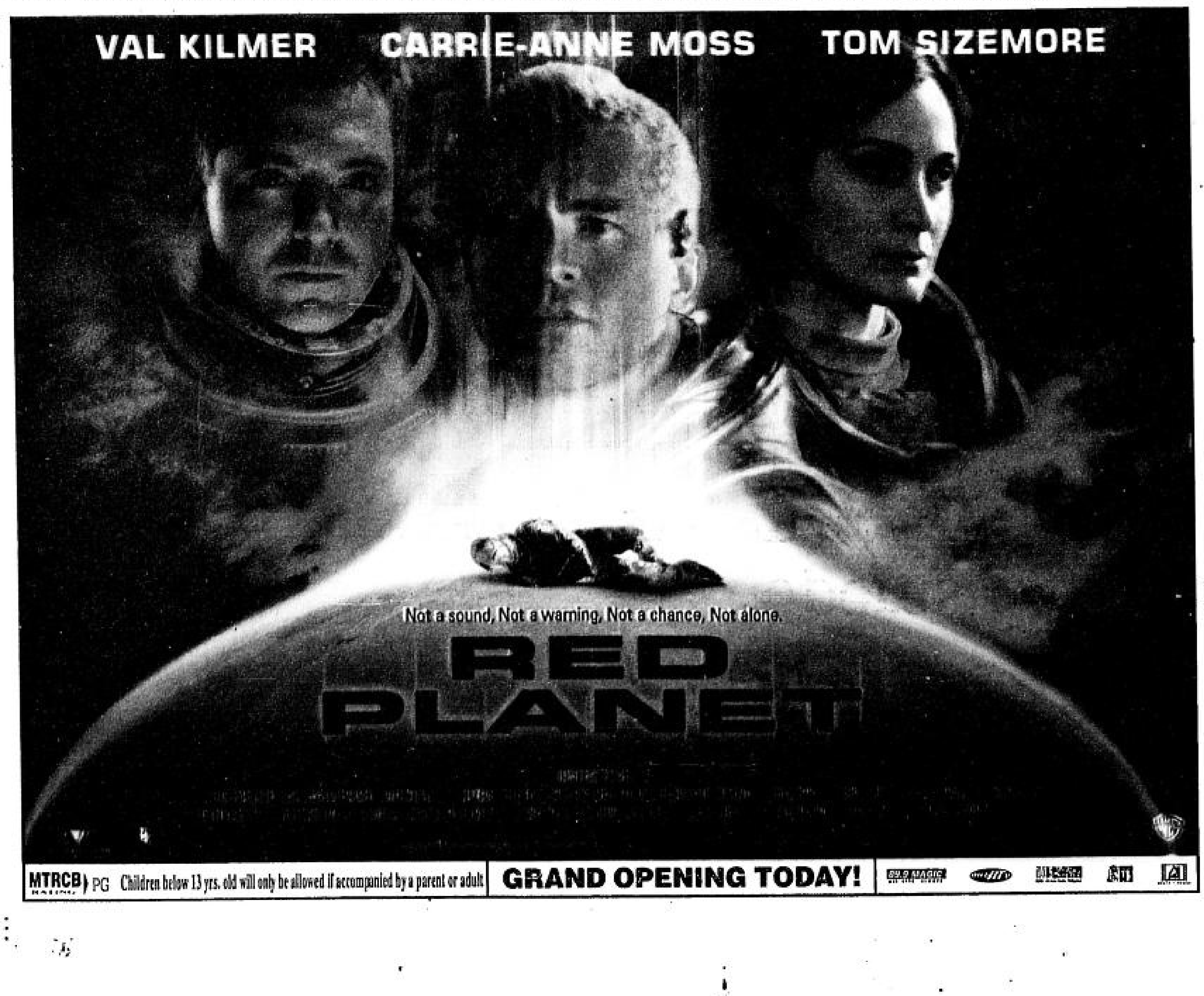
AYALA CINEMAS & invite you to celebrate the
Gala Re-opening
of the
All Digital Sound, All Guaranteed Seats
GREENBELT CINEMA
with the
SPECIAL PREVIEW
of
PROOF OF LIFE
January 11, 2001 (Thursday)
9:00 PM
Greenbelt Cinemas
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
Tickets are now available at
the Greenbelt Cinema Ticket Booth
PROOF OF LIFE



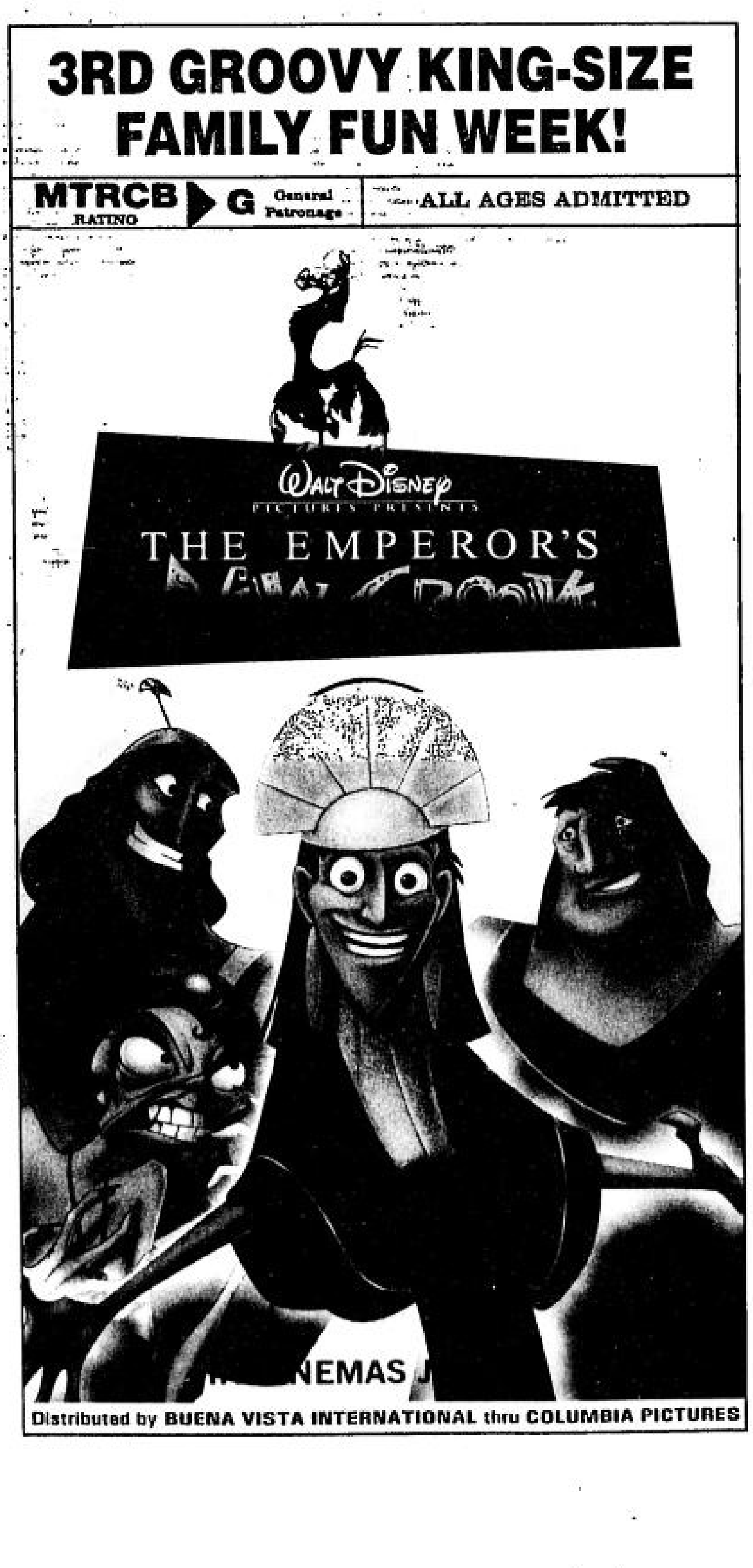
"DEAD POETS SOCIETY"+"DANGEROUS MINDS"=CROWD PLEASER
INSPIRATIONAL FEEL-GOOD MIGHT TRIUMPHS ON SCREEN TODAY
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
DENZEL WASHINGTON
Before they could win, they had to become one.
REMEMBER THE TITANS
BASED ON A TRUE STORY
Walt Disney Pictures
Distributed by BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL thru COLUMBIA PICTURES

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

1 REMEMBER THE TITANS 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20	2 RED PLANET 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	3 HIGHLANDER 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
4 LITTLE NICKY 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	5 LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	6 MEET THE PARENTS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00



VAL KILMER CARRIE-ANNE MOSS TOM SIZEMORE
Not a sound. Not a warning. Not a chance. Not alone.
RED PLANET
MTRCB PG Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
GRAND OPENING TODAY!



3RD GROOVY KING-SIZE FAMILY FUN WEEK!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
THE EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE
NEMAS J
Distributed by BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL thru COLUMBIA PICTURES

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

The NEW
HONDA
Genuine Oil
PERFECTED BY HONDA
PERFECT FOR VTEC
www.hondaphil.com

Equitable seeking foreign partner

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank, said yesterday it was seeking a 20- to 35-percent foreign investment as part of various alternatives to strengthen the bank.

Equitable PCI Bank president Wilfrido Vergara said the bank was expected to generate between P12 billion and P15 billion from a strategic investment by a foreign partner based on current prices.

"Foreign strategic investors should take up a minimum of 20 percent of the bank for it to be meaningful . . . what we are looking at is 20-35 percent of the bank to be taken up by a foreign strategic investor," Vergara said.

The bank suffered heavy withdrawals following allegations in the Senate impeachment court that it was used by President Estrada to maintain at least one secret account.

To strengthen it, Vergara said the management has begun studying various options, which include the entry of a foreign partner, a merger with a local bank, or both.

"The sale is not a principal solution. It could be a combination. Even with a foreign infusion there could still be a merger with a local bank," Vergara said.

"The mandate given is to strengthen the bank. The option is to revive discussion with a strategic foreign investor moving possibly into a merger with a local institution," he said.

The Development Bank of Singapore is reportedly helping BPI in the local bank's bid to buy a substantial block in Equitable.

The move will allow the Singapore-based regional player to increase its stake in the country's largest lender.

At the same time, Yuchengco-controlled Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. yesterday confirmed its interest to acquire Equitable.

"Yes, we are interested (in Equitable), but we have yet to receive any information. Once we are given the numbers, we will take a look at it," said RCBC vice chair Cesar Virata.

Metrobank, the country's second biggest, is also reportedly interested in Equitable but has yet to confirm it officially.

Banking sources said DBS of Singapore, which owns about 28 percent of BPI, has offered to help the country's largest bank fund its acquisition of Equitable.

"DBS wants to increase its stake in BPI and it is willing to help BPI finance the buy-in into Equitable," a source said.

After buying Far East Bank in 1999, BPI of the Ayala Group had emerged to be the country's largest bank with assets of more than P310 billion and a deposit base of about P240 billion.

Its acquisition of Equitable would increase its asset base by P255 billion and its deposit base by P160 billion.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said any acquisition by BPI or the Metrobank Group would create a local giant that could compete with regional players.

Metrobank ranks second with assets of about P300 billion and deposits of more than P231 billion.

BPI president Xavier Loinaz, however, brushed aside an earlier admission by the bank that it was interested in Equitable PCI. "No, we did not take a look at it," he said.

Buenaventura said that if RCBC ended up acquiring Equitable, then it would also be a welcome development since it would create three big local banking units.

RCBC of the Yuchengco family ranks ninth with assets of a little less than P110 billion and deposits of about P77 billion.

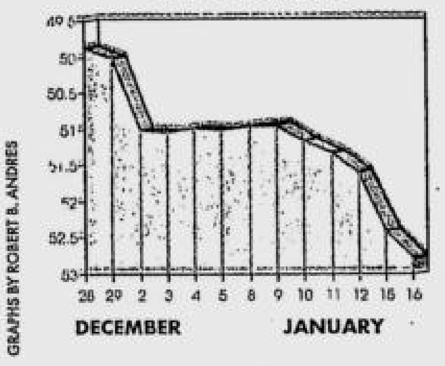
Aside from the three universal

EQUITABLE/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱52.78 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 16, 2001

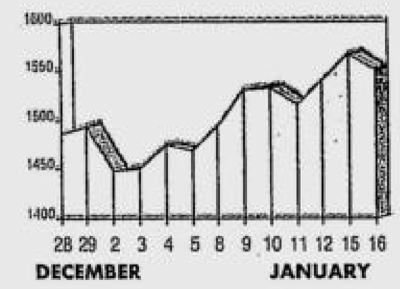
¥118.16 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 118.16 as of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 16, 2001

GOLD:$264.10/264.60
per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 16, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close lower

SHARES closed lower yesterday as the weak peso spurred a round of profit-taking, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 16.14 points, or one percent, at 1,551.79, after rising 1.7 percent Monday. The index has gained 3.4 percent the past two sessions.

"The general sentiment is still quite bearish and the weak peso contributed," Nomura Securities research head Minda Olonan said.

The peso fell to a new record low of 52.95 to the dollar late in morning trade, pressured by political concerns and weak regional currencies.

The weak peso forced the central bank to temporarily shelve plans to implement more policy rate cuts in the near term.

Decliners led gainers 48 to 19, while 32 issues were unchanged.

Total volume of shares traded thinned to 218.1 million shares valued at P1.36 billion from Monday's 458.7 million shares valued at P1.91 billion.

Decliners led gainers 48 to 19, while 32 issues were unchanged. *AP*

Bayantel misses bond payment

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc. said it missed a $13.5-million coupon payment due Monday and was in talks with creditors to renegotiate its debt.

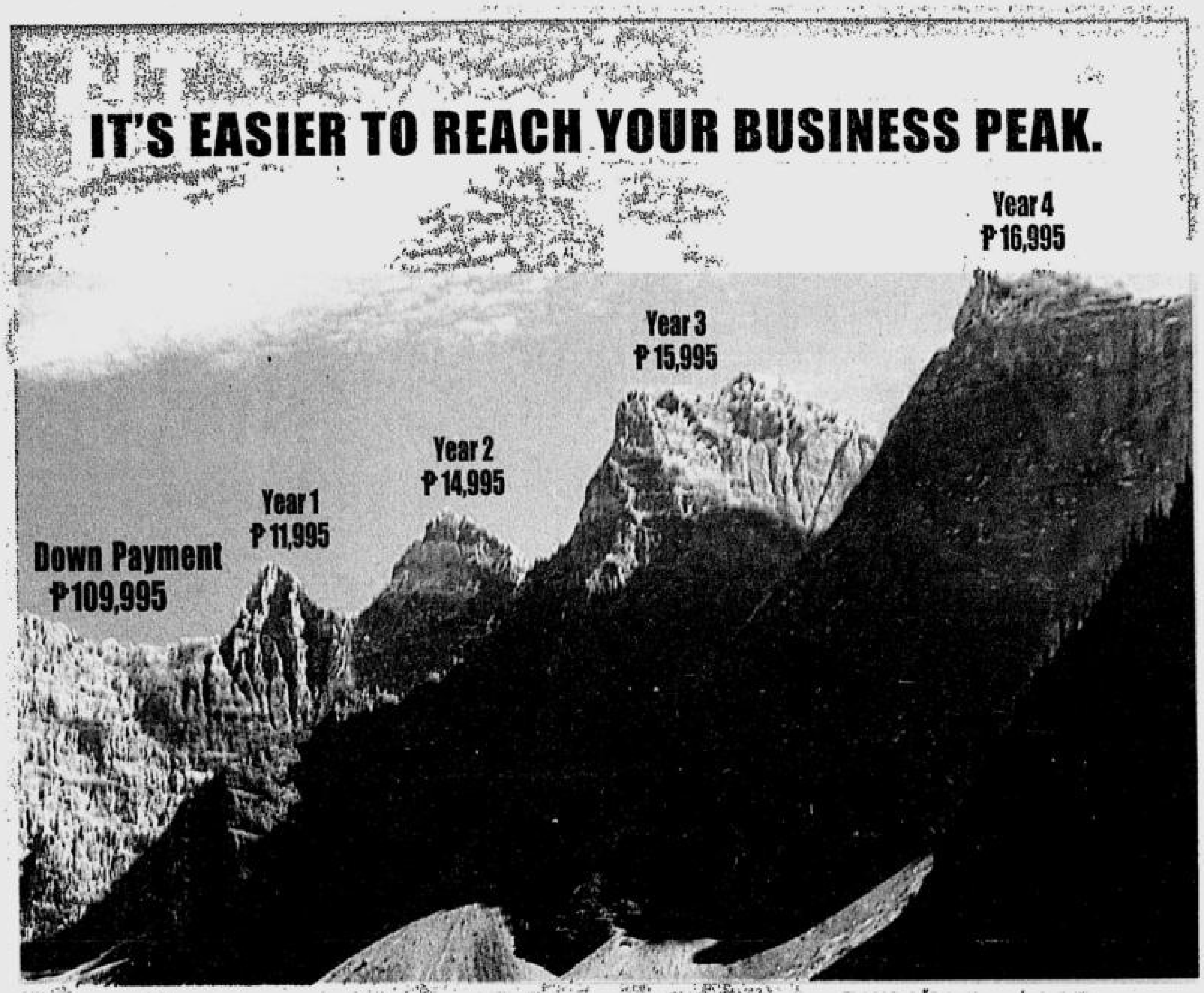
The company told bondholders in a teleconference it would not make interest payments on $200 million of bonds maturing in July 2006 until debt restructuring talks are completed in the next six to 12 months, said Rochel Gloria, investor-relations manager of the telephone company. Coupon payments on the bonds, sold in July 1999, fall due Jan. 15 and July 15 of each year.

Bayantel initiated the debt rescheduling talks because a fall in the peso pushed up the cost of servicing its debt beyond levels that could be supported by the company's operations, Gloria said.

Bank of America Corp. was named financial adviser to help with the debt restructuring.

Gloria said talks were also held with its creditor banks which have already formed a steering committee for the debt negotiations.

Carla Paras-Sison, a spokeswoman of Benpres Holdings Corp., Bayantel's parent company, said the weakening peso bloated the company's interest payments on some P20 billion of debt as of the end of 2000, nine-tenths of which is foreign currency denominated. *Bloomberg*



Ford's exclusive G-Financing now on the Ranger, too.

Ford Credit
A Division of Primus Finance and Leasing Corp.

Now owning a Ford and having a successful business is easy. Setting-up a business can be financially exhausting on the first year. That's why you have the Ford Credit G-Financing. It allows you to buy your Ranger at the lowest possible down payment of ₱109,995. It comes with a monthly amortization that increases yearly at the same pace your business grows. All these, and a free bedliner too. Now is the best time to buy your Ranger and bring your business to the top.

Model	Low Down Payment	Monthly Amortization			
		Yr. 1	Yr. 2	Yr. 3	Yr. 4
Ranger XL 4x2	109,995	11,995	14,995	15,995	16,995
Ranger XLT 4x2	129,995	14,695	17,695	18,695	19,695
Ranger XLT 4x4	169,995	17,995	22,995	24,995	25,995

*FREE BEDLINER WITH EVERY RANGER PURCHASE.
**FORD RANGER G-FINANCING AVAILABLE UP TO JANUARY 31, 2001 ONLY.

• Ford Credit Graduated Financing also available for 3-year term.
•• Available in Luzon only. Alternative financing schemes available outside Luzon.
••• All plans subject to credit approval.
•••• Ford bonus packages available for cash buyers.

XL 4x2 : ₱590,000
Down Payment ₱109,995

XLT 4x4 : ₱885,000
Down Payment ₱169,995

XLT 4x2 : ₱699,000
Down Payment ₱129,995

www.ford.com.ph

Shipping and handling charges may apply outside Luzon.

Extended until Jan. 31, 2001; approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0088, Series of 2001

Ford Alabang, Madrigal Business Park,
Alabang - Zapote Rd., Muntinlupa City;
Tel No.: 807-5568; Fax No.: 807-4430

Ford Cabanatuan, Maharlika Highway,
Sumacab-Este, Cabanatuan City;
Tel No. (044) 464 0111; Fax No. (044) 600 4200

Ford Balintawak, EDSA cor. Seminary Road,
Balintawak, Quezon City;
Trunk Line: 927-9648; Fax No.: 927-5981

Ford Pampanga, San Fernando - Olongapo Highway,
San Fernando, Pampanga;
Trunk Line: (045) 961-2888; Fax Nos.: (045) 963-5205 / 961-2277

Ford EDSA, 29 EDSA, Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila;
Trunk Lines: 726-7181 to 85; Fax No.: 723-6311

Ford Cebu, Magallanes cor.
P. Burgos St., Cebu City 6000;
Trunk Line: (032) 253-0453; Fax No.: (032) 253-0429

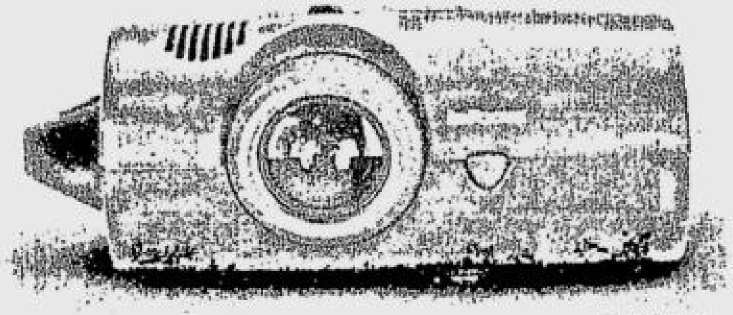
Ford Libis, 186 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue,
Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City;
Trunk Line: 637-2044; Fax No.: 637-6008

Ford Davao, Orion Bldg., Km. 4,
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City;
Tel. Nos.: (082) 234-1111 / 234-2222; Fax No.: (082) 225-3534

Ford Makati, 2287 Pasong Tamo Ext.,
Makati City 1231;
Trunk Line: 818-5555; Fax Nos.: 815-0513 / 898-5555

Perfect for every environment

LP770



LP755

Let **InFocus** bring the power of sound and video to your meeting room, classroom, or boardroom. We've earned a sound reputation for bringing users the best, most full-featured, and easiest-to-use projection technologies. It's what you'd expect, form **InFocus**, the global leader in presentation solutions.

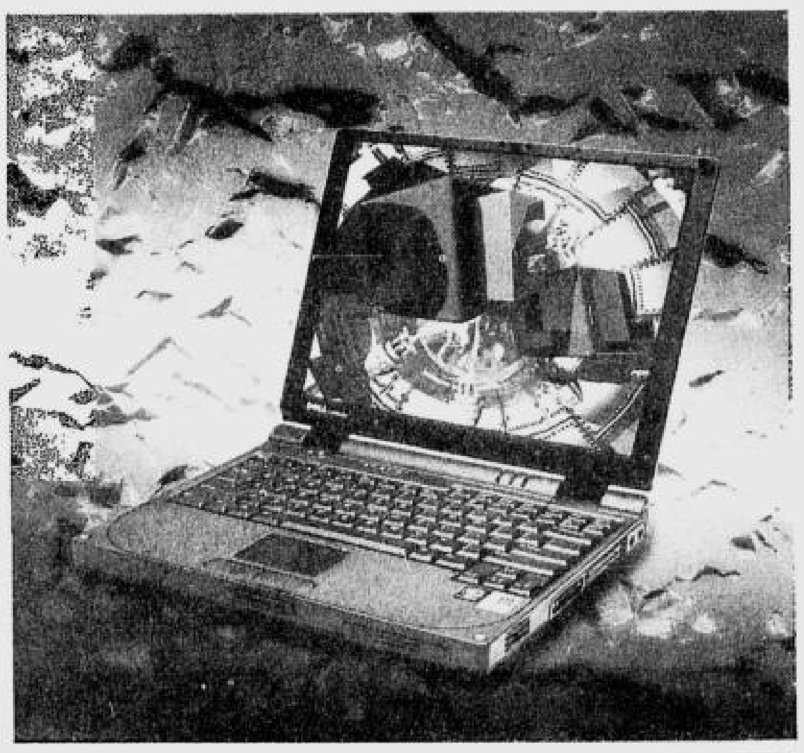
Get your point across brilliantly. HEY! it's your image. Project yourself.™

InFocus®
The No.1 Projector Company In The World.

Exclusive Distributor & Service Provider:
better solutions
AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
url: www.ati.com.ph • e-mail: inquire@ati.com.ph

We also offer data/video design and system integration.

MOBILE POWER FOR THE NEXT GENERATION LIFESTYLE



DELL® LATITUDE CSx ULTRAMOBILE

- Intel® Pentium® III processor 500MHz
- 128MB RAM
- User-removable 12GB HD external hard drive
- 24X CD-ROM external drive
- 13.3" TFT active matrix display
- Touch pad
- Windows® 98
- Starting at 4.3lbs and 1.1" thin
- Smart lithium ion battery.
- 3 years limited warranty on Parts and Service
- 1 year On-Site service
- **FREE Xircom realport 2:1 (56k modem + 10/100 network card)**

P145,000.00

Power up with the industry's most powerful mobile business tool from Dell. Introducing the slim and ultramobile Dell Latitude CSx. Designed to meet the most-demanding computing needs of executives on the go, Dell Latitude CSx is powered by the latest Intel® Pentium® III processor 500 MHz.

At just 4.3lbs in a 1.1" thin chassis, we never compromise speed for design and comfort. You can enjoy video or any multimedia experience with Dell Latitude CSx 13.3" XGA color TFT active matrix display and NeoMagic 2360 256-bit graphics accelerator with 4MB internal video memory for high-quality and vibrant images. And for instant remote connectivity, it comes with the Xircom Realport 2-in-1 56Kbps modem and a 10/100 network card.

Get today's most sophisticated pack of mobile computing power in a slim and sleek case. Contact your local Dell Distributor, Accent Micro Technologies Inc. now at 637-3254/636-3563 or email mktg@amti.com.ph and discover a revolutionary improvement in mobile computing.

Give your business the notebook you need. Call your local Dell distributor to speak with an expert about the notebook that's right for you.

Manila: ACCENT MICRO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
Suite 1408, 14/F Antel Global Corporate Center, Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
Phone: (632) 637-3254 (632) 636-3563

Cebu: Suite 705, Golden Peak Tower, Gorordo Ave, Cor N, Escario St Cebu City.
Phone: (632) 233-7933 (632) 632-7937

intel inside
pentium® !!!

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. Dell is a registered trademark, and the Dell logo and Latitude are trademarks of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo, Intel and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows and Windows NT are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Other trademarks and trade names may be used in this document to refer to either the entities claiming marks and names or their products. Dell disclaims proprietary interest in the marks and names of others. Dell is not responsible for errors in typography and photography. Photographed with options. Please write to Dell Computer Asia Pacific Sdn. at Plot P27, Bayan Lepas Industrial Zone, Phase IV, 11900 Penang, Malaysia for a complete copy of Dell's warranty offerings. Copyright 2000 Dell Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.

DELL
COM

BUY DELL
MANILA
637 3254/636 3563
CEBU
032 233 7933/233 7937
OR VISIT www.amti.com.ph

Weak peso derails BSP rates cut plan

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has dropped plans to again cut its overnight rates this week to lift the peso, which has fallen to new historic lows this week.

"We will likely postpone any further rates cut and wait for the exchange rate to stabilize," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in an interview yesterday.

Buenaventura said key policy rates of the central bank would stay at 12.5 percent for overnight borrowing and 14.75 percent for overnight lending.

The peso declined for a sixth day to a record low on concerns the budget deficit would widen should the Senate approve the national budget passed by the House of Representatives.

The peso dropped to 52.78 against the dollar from 52.40 on Thursday.

The House version of the budget calls for spending of up to P715 billion and a deficit of P82.2 billion.

The country's budget shortfall for 2000 already swelled to P136.1 billion from last year's P111.7 billion as a slowing economy and political instability cut tax receipts and delayed sales of state assets.

"A budget of P715 billion may cause the Philippine deficit to reach P200 billion this year," said Mokhtar Hassan, a currency analyst at International Financing Review. "The government's revenue does not justify that kind of financing."

The peso could fall further to 55 against the US dollar in a month and almost 10 percent to 58 per dollar in three months time, Hassan said.

A wider budget deficit might force the government to borrow more, which could push up interest rates. Higher rates are likely to discourage businesses from taking out loans and to weaken consumer demand.

The central bank raised overnight interest rates by four percentage points to 15 percent in October to slow the peso's slide following corruption allegations against President Estrada. It cut interest rates five times since by a total of 2.5 percentage points as it tries to boost the economy.

Mr. Estrada is accused of bribery, graft and corruption in connection with allegations he pocketed more than $6 million in illegal gambling payoffs and tax kickbacks. He is on trial in the 22-member Senate, which has the power to remove him from office if he is found guilty.

"Political instabilities could also weaken the peso further," Hassan said. "If Estrada is weeded out, we still need to know who the next successor is going to be."

With a report from Bloomberg

Oil firms rule out price cut

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

LOCAL oil firms said yesterday they were unlikely to again cut fuel prices this month, with oil-producing countries set to reduce production and with the peso falling to historic lows.

Opec oil producers have pressed ahead with plans for a deep cut in crude supplies.

Determined to underpin the price of Opec oil at $25 a barrel, the cartel is expected to slice exports by about 1.5 million barrels daily, just over 5 percent.

The peso yesterday fell to a new all-time low of 52.78 against the US dollar on concerns the budget deficit would widen should the Senate approve the national budget passed by the House of Representatives.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. said with world crude prices rising and the peso falling, a new round of reduction in local petroleum prices was unlikely.

"The market had so far taken the negative anticipation of the Opec meeting. Dubai crude had inched up by some $2 per barrel as of the Jan. 15 spot price as compared to the December average of $21.65," Petron Corp. corporate communications manager Antonio Pelayo said in an interview.

Last week, Petron, Shell and Caltex cut gasoline prices by 60 centavos per liter and diesel and kerosene prices by 50 centavos per liter.

New oil players Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. and Total Petroleum Philippines Inc. also reduced their prices, with Unioil slashing gasoline prices by 52 centavos and diesel prices by 42 centavos and Total cutting gasoline prices by 60 centavos and diesel prices by 50 centavos.

Three other small oil companies—Eastern Petroleum Corp., Seaoil Philippines Inc. and Flying V—cut retail fuel prices by as much as 25 centavos on Jan. 2.

ADB warns of water crisis

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE ASIAN Development Bank has warned of a water crisis in Asia, even as it cites the privatization of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System as a good example of private sector partnership in managing water resources.

In a paper titled "Water for All: The Water Policy of the ADB," the ADB warned of a water shortage in Asia as demand for domestic and industrial water in the region expands.

Given the situation, the ADB approved a water policy that underscored the need for an integrated water resource management approach.

One of the main thrusts of this policy was to foster public-private partnerships to obtain efficiencies in managing water resources. The ADB noted that global experience indicated that public responsibility and ownership were often best blended with private management.

"In the Philippines, public limited companies cover 400 water districts. Their five-member boards represent a variety of customer interests—business, women's organizations, and households. They are overseen by local water utilities administration that also undertakes informal regulation," the ADB said.

Since the Philippine government auctioned off 25-year water concession contracts in 1997, "service quality has improved markedly with regular hours of supply, fewer interruptions, an improvement in water quality, and significantly reduced water bills."

The ADB also noted positive examples of public-private sector water resource management in Thailand, Uzbekistan and India.

The ADB warned that within the next quarter century, half of Asia's estimated population of 4.2 billion would live in urban centers, putting more pressure on water availability.

It said Asia already had the lowest per capita availability of freshwater resources. Due largely to population increases, it noted that per capita water availability had already dropped by 70 percent in South and Central Asia, 60 percent in North Asia, and 55 percent in Southeast Asia over the last 50 years.

Firm offers to pay ASB debts

HONG KONG'S Chevalier group of companies has offered cash, installment and asset-swap options as possible modes of debt settlement to creditors of the ASB group of companies.

Chevalier International Holdings Ltd. is reportedly in talks to invest in ASB, a cash-strapped company controlled by property developer Luke Roxas.

ASB owes banks and unsecured individual creditors over P12.7 billion.

Chevalier supplies office and mechanical equipment, and has investments in real estate and cars.

A person familiar with the situation said Chevalier was willing to pay ASB's creditors in cash if they would agree to cut the amount they were demanding by 40 percent. If they wanted to be paid in full, Chevalier offered to pay them 10 percent in cash up front while the balance would be paid in installments at an interest rate of 4 percent.

The source said some creditors were willing to accept properties, such as condominium units, as payment.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has given ASB until the first week of March to find a "white knight" and resume paying its debts.

A rehabilitation plan approved by its interim receiver requires ASB to look for an investor that will help it ease its debt problems.

The rehabilitation plan also calls for creditor banks to release a portion of the excess amount of mortgages on ASB properties so that those assets can be placed in an asset pool. Earnings from this asset pool will be used to pay ASB's unsecured creditors.

Most banks, however, have opposed the rehabilitation plan. Unsecured individual creditors, on the other hand, have given their conditional approval.

Elena R. Torrijos

FUJITSU
DYNA MO
RELIABLE, INFINITE Read/Write
Magneto Optical (MO) Drives and Disks
- Fast read/write drive for PC or MAC
- MO technology = NO CRASHES NO READ ERRORS
- High capacity 3.5" disks. Up to 1.3 GB
- Nearly indestructible disks
- Stored data is secure for 30 yrs. or more

Axis Global Technologies, Inc.
Tel. 724-3340 Fax. 724-3353
Fujitsu Philippines, Inc.
Tel. 812-4001 Fax. 817-7576

You don't have to wake up with back sores

Repair patches available

BACKREST FOR YOUR BEDREST
- Provides more comfortable sleeping environment.
- Prevents bedsores.
- Prevents sweat evaporation that causes pneumonia.
- Reduces the workload for the care giver who has to constantly move the patient.

Quantum Care Medical Products
81-2A Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City Tel. No. 551-6661 Tel. Fax 831-6250

FR streamlines operations

FR CEMENT Corp. is proceeding this year with plans to standardize its products and streamline its operations to suit global requirements and improve corporate-wide efficiency.

Seung-Ju Lee, FRCC plant manager, said FRCC was gearing up for its ambitious but realistic plan of becoming a world-class plant in the next few years.

SJ Lee said, as part of its reorganization efforts, a voluntary separation program was being offered by FRCC. The cement company had set up an employee assistance program to help those who would accept the separation offer.

"We are giving those opting for VSP the equivalent of two months' pay for every year of service. This is higher than the retirement plan of 1.5 month's pay for every year of service provided for in the CBA. The law provides for just one month pay for every year of service," said Andy Zabala, FRCC human resource manager.

The separation package offered by FRCC also included two years health care coverage for the employees and their families. They would also be trained in new skills and provided referral and placement assistance, Zabala added. Livelihood assistance was provided in the form of entrepreneurship training and starting capital of P20,000 per employee.

ePLDT

Your password is not safe enough.

Networks are now a necessary tool for any business because your company's information needs to be shared with your employees, your customers, and your business partners as quickly as possible. However, there is always the risk that important information may be hacked, or intercepted and tampered with, whether you have an intranet, extranet, web site or Virtual Private Network (VPN).

The growing use of the internet makes it necessary that you are able to reliably identify those who are allowed access to your company's data and protect it from being compromised, specially in an online business transaction.

Private and hacker-proof electronic communications and transactions can be done through digital certificates now that they are recognized by the Philippine e-commerce law.

What is a digital certificate?

A digital certificate is a data object which associates an identity of a person, for example, with a public or private encryption code. A certificate is used in networks to establish authentication and privacy between networked users.

Digital certificates are supported by virtually all of today's standards-based Internet security protocols and applications.

Digital certificates can be issued to your buyers, suppliers, customers and employees. With this unique digital ID, you build trust now that you can reliably identify users online. They can be given access to sensitive information and allowed to commit to binding and non-repudiable transactions online.

VeriSign

Because it takes time, technology and considerable expense to create this trust infrastructure, companies have created fully integrated Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) managed services to issue digital certificates. In the Philippines, ePLDT's mySecureSign® and VeriSign, the leading Internet trust services provider, are working together to provide companies with cost-effective yet highly-secure Internet Protocol (IP) network solutions.

VeriSign®

VeriSign -trust is our business.

VeriSign and its global network of affiliated processing centers and service providers (including AT&T and British Telecom) have built a proven online backbone of state-of-the-art technologies, infrastructure and practices for fail-safe security. VeriSign certificates secure more than 410,000 web sites, including the top 40 e-commerce sites and the sites of 400 of the Fortune 500 companies with a web presence.

mySecureSign® offers trust services that accelerate your deployment of secure e-commerce applications ranging from e-mail and browsing to web servers and VPN devices. Managed services range from solutions that simply plug into your existing IT infrastructure to incorporate digital certificate-based security into your system virtually to designing and implementing PKI and digital certificate solutions.

Flexibility

We can issue a variety of digital certificate types, including S/MIME for e-mail security, IPSec for network device security and SSL (including 128-bit certificates, the world's most powerful) to enable secure web transactions.

Scalability

Our services grow with your business. We can issue hundreds of millions of certificates, if necessary, to meet peak demands, saving you the hidden costs like hardware upgrades, for example.

Secure Infrastructure

Our facilities are disaster-hardened and are equipped with biometrics, intrusion detection, and computer data and network security measures to ensure that nothing is compromised and that services are never disrupted.

For companies beginning to enter the world of e-commerce, establishing trust with consumers is necessary for success. And with mySecureSign®, you can manage your security infrastructure without having to build one. For inquiries, email us at care@mysecuresign.com.

mySecureSign®
an affiliate of ePLDT

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, January 16, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.20	6.2	6.2	6.2	3,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	61.00	62	61	61.5	923,400
China Banking Corp.	750.0	750	750	750	1,080
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	55.00	57	55	57	48,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	195.0	196	195	196	580,580
Philippine National Bank	38.00	38	37	37.5	13,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	36.00	36	36	36	12,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1230	1300	1230	1300	11,880
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.20	1.2	1.2	1.2	26,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1125	1160	1125	1160	6,250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	49.50	49.5	49.5	49.5	1,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	.5000	.5	.48	.48	520,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com.	1.70	2.9	1.7	2.9	9,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700.0	700	700	700	100
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0470	.048	.047	.048	1,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.4500	.46	.45	.46	90,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	.3300	.42	.33	.42	170,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	910.0	920	910	915	572,030
Ivantage Corp.	.8700	.87	.86	.86	300,000
Philweb.com Inc.	.0390	.039	.037	.037	43,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	48.00	48	47.5	48	14,500
Manila Electric Co. "B"	54.00	54.5	53.5	54	642,800
Petron Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.32	1,780,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9200	.92	.92	.92	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l SV	.8000	.8	.78	.79	320,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.4000	.4	.38	.38	200,000
Union Cement Corp.	.6500	.65	.65	.65	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.40	2.4	2.4	2.4	40,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	10.25	10.25	9.9	10	1,593,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	2,000
Pure Foods Corp. "A"	100.0	100	100	100	2,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.00	1	1	1	30,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	49.50	51	49.5	50.5	383,500
San Miguel Corp. "B"	57.50	57.5	57	57.5	1,523,500
Vitarich Corp.	.4000	.4	.4	.4	190,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.70	7.7	7.5	7.6	2,668,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	.3600	.36	.36	.36	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	110,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	12.25	11.25	11.75	10,506,500
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	.7500	.75	.7	.72	190,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.2500	.25	.25	.25	1,670,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	20,000
Bacnotan Cons. Indus. Inc.	12.00	12	10	10	4,300
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.00	3.35	3.1	3.1	11,219,000
Dasic Consolidated Inc.	.1600	.16	.16	.16	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.3100	.31	.3	.3	900,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	.8000	.8	.8	.8	170,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.5	17,500
Global Equities Inc.	.3400	.34	.33	.33	640,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	.2200	.22	.22	.22	100,000
House of Investments Inc.	.7000	.7	.7	.7	10,000
Ionics Inc.	15.50	15.5	15.25	15.5	215,000
Ipeople Inc. "B"	.7000	.7	.7	.7	12,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	79,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings "B"	2.20	2.2	2.08	2.1	691,000
Megaworld Corp.	.7900	.79	.79	.79	2,190,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.6100	.61	.59	.59	5,820,000
Solid Group Inc.	.5400	.54	.5	.5	520,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.3400	.35	.34	.35	4,020,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. "A"	1.00	1	1	1	50,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.50	6.5	6.5	6.5	2,000
Music Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	58,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	.5700	.57	.57	.57	60,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.1050	.105	.105	.105	500,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	7.00	7	7	7	1,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	7.90	8	7.9	8	232,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.6900	.69	.69	.69	330,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.6400	.64	.62	.64	4,340,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	49.50	49.5	49.5	49.5	788,900
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	7,920,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.05	3.15	2.9	3.1	91,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR)	720.0	720	720	720	700
Jollibee Warrants	10.00	10	9.8	9.8	32,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.30	6.3	6	6	17,138,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	.3300	.33	.33	.33	190,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	.4500	.45	.43	.43	500,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.4000	.4	.4	.4	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.3600	.37	.36	.36	18,410,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.48	1.52	8,385,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	.1600	.16	.16	.16	1,060,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.3700	.37	.37	.37	150,000
SM Development Corp.	.9500	.95	.95	.95	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.30	6.3	6.1	6.2	18,046,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	.0900	.09	.09	.09	400,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	.0050	.005	.005	.005	1,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	.0050	.005	.005	.005	3,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min. & Dev't.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	2,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. "A"	.1900	.195	.19	.195	60,000
Manila Mining Corp. "A"	.0060	.006	.006	.006	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	.0036	.0036	.0036	.0036	30,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0210	.021	.02	.02	4,500,000
Pacifica	.0150	.015	.015	.015	1,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	.1800	.18	.18	.18	200,000

CURRENCIES

Jan. 16, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.050089	1.000000	51.9780
Japan	Yen	0.008867	0.008444	0.4389
United Kingdom	Pound	1.552242	1.478200	76.8339
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.134640	0.128218	6.6645
Switzerland	Franc	0.647065	0.616200	32.0288
Canada	Dollar	0.699966	0.666578	34.6474
Singapore	Dollar	0.605937	0.577034	29.9931
Australia	Dollar	0.583967	0.556112	28.9056
Bahrain	Dinar	2.785531	2.652661	137.8800
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.280008	0.266652	13.8600
Brunei	Dollar	0.603604	0.574812	29.8776
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000104	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.024252	0.023095	1.2004
UAE	Dirham	0.285933	0.272294	14.1533
Korea	Won	0.000822	0.000783	0.0407
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.952300	49.4986
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.486903	25.3082
France	Franc	0.152450	0.145177	7.5460
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.432135	22.4615
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.069206	3.5972
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.023607	1.2270
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000492	0.0256
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.160165	8.3251
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.00475	0.2469
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005723	0.2975
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.023607	1.2270
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.209172	62.8503

VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.

9126 Sultana St. corner Honradez St., Makati City
Tel. No. 896-03-81/899-04-85/890-70-62 Fax No. 895-41-50

November 29, 2000

Notice of Special Stockholders' Meeting

To Stockholders of Victorias Milling Company, Inc. (VMC):

Please be informed that pursuant to Board Resolution No. 11/23/00-53 adopted by the VMC Board of Directors on November 23, 2000 there will be a special stockholders' meeting to be held on **January 25, 2001 at 2:30 p.m.** at the **Ayala Banquet Hall, Makati (Sports) Club, Inc.,** Alfaro corner Gallardo Sts., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City for the purpose of seeking the stockholders' comments on, consideration and/or approval of the alternative rehabilitation for the Company.

Enclosed for such purpose are the following:

1. Comparative presentation of the important features of the Alternative Rehabilitation Plan prepared by VMC Management and that of the Alternative Rehabilitation Plan prepared by the clean creditors of the Company, together with the modifications proposed by VMC to the clean creditors' plan to narrow the differences between the two plans, all submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission for its consideration in SEC Case No. 07-97-5693; and

2. Form proxy, which Management is requesting you to sign, should you be unable to attend said meeting, and to send the same to the Company at the above-given address, personally or by mail on the enclosed self-stamped and self-addressed envelope, on time to be received at least ten (10) days before the date of said meeting.

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.

By:

RUBEN E. AGPALO
Corporate Secretary

Note:

Pursuant to the by-laws adopted by the stockholders during their meeting on February 4, 1997, proxies shall be submitted to the secretary not later than ten (10) working days before a stockholders' meeting whether regular, annual meeting or special meeting. Validation of proxies shall not be later than five (5) days prior to the meeting.

The record date for stockholders to vote shall be thirty (30) days before the stockholders' meeting.

DISCLOSURES

GUOCO Holdings (Philippines) Inc. disclosed that it had already submitted its annual report and paid the corresponding fines.

* * *

PACEMCO Holdings Inc. is now holding office at the 25/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City.

* * *

PICOP Holdings Inc. advised that in connection with its acquisition of majority ownership of **Zeus Holdings Inc. (ZHI)**, it would maintain ZHI's character as an investment holding company.

* * *

MANILA Broadcasting Co. will hold a special stockholders' meeting on Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. at the FJE Boardroom, 6th Floor, FJE Building, 105 Esteban St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Jan. 31, 2001 are entitled to vote at the said meeting.

* * *

ELECTED as directors of **Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp.** were Ramon V. del Rosario, Oscar J. Hidalgo, Antonio V. del Rosario, Alfredo M. Velayo, Raymundo O. Feliciano, Magdaleno B. Albarracin Jr., Ernesto T. Caluya, Epifania S. Godinez, Reynaldo V. Paulino, Ricardo V. Camua and Francisco L. Viray.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Metro Alliance Holdings and Equities Corp.** accepted the resignation of Tomas V. Apacible as director of the company.

* * *

PHILCOMSAT Holdings Corp. announced that there are no changes in the present composition of its board of directors.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.** set the annual stockholders' meeting on April 15 at 4 p.m. at the Rigodon Ballroom, The Peninsula Manila. The stock and transfer book of the company will be closed from Feb. 26 to the close of business hours of April 15.

* * *

UNIWIDE Holdings Inc. confirmed that there are feelers sent by various investor groups for exploratory discussions and that the company is working on pushing through with the "dacion en pago" arrangement with its creditor banks.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Dizon Copper-Silver Mines Inc.** accepted on Jan. 10 the resignation of Lea S. Dizon as director of the company and elected Jeffrey S. Dizon to fill up the vacant seat.

* * *

SAN MIGUEL Food Inc. announced the closure of its poultry processing plant in Cabuyao.

* * *

EEI Corp. informed that its proposed stock rights offering was temporarily deferred until such time market conditions improve.

* * *

THE LISTING of 5,134 common shares of **Cosmos Bottling Corp.** is set for Jan. 16. This brings the number of common shares listed arising from the conversion of 273.94 million preferred shares to a total of 547.89 million shares.

* * *

THE LISTING of 4.55 million common shares of **Metro Pacific Corp.** is set for Jan. 17.

* * *

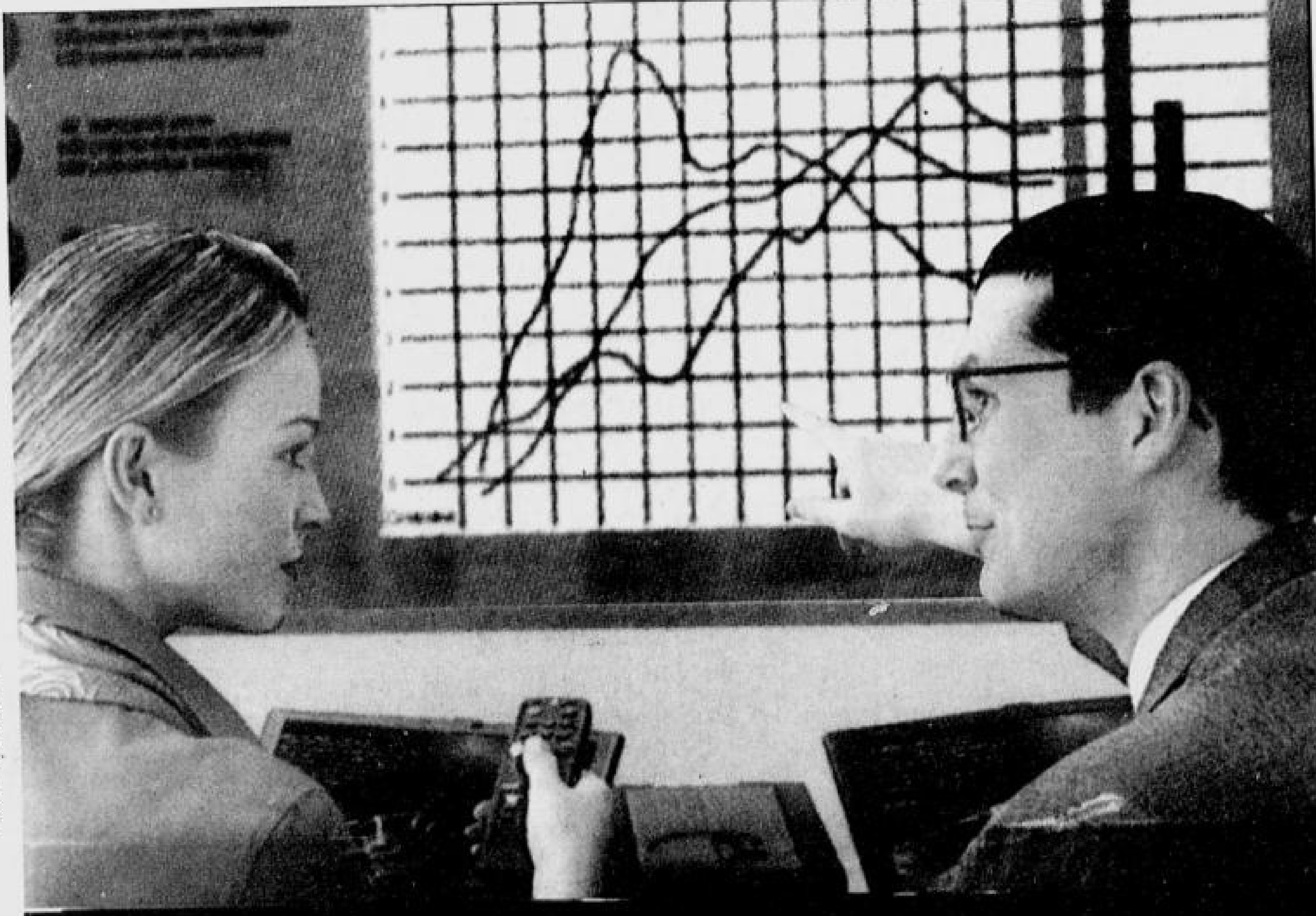
SKY Vision Corp., a cable-TV subsidiary of the Lopez Group and **Home Cable**, a cable-TV subsidiary of PLDT, are currently in exploratory talks about a potential business collaboration pertaining to their cable-TV business.

* * *

THE FOLLOWING were elected as officers of **Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.**: Alfredo Ramos, chair and president; Patrick Caoile, EVP and GM; Augusto Sunico, VP and treasurer; Alfredo Calub, VP-operations; F.G. de Guzman, corporate secretary, and Mariano Celis II, assistant corporate secretary.

Compiled by Ray Leyesa and Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

www.jrs-express.com
Worldwide Delivery
Tel. # 817-7714/816-02-82/637-2065/631-7351 to 56 Fax # 631-7357



PUT IT TO THE TEST, LET US SHOW YOU HOW TO BE AT YOUR BEST!

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

Distributed by: cti COLUMBIA TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Website: www.cti-phil.com
E-mail: hitachi@cti-phil.com
For a FREE Demo call us at: MANILA:3382371/5226986 CAVITE:(046)8750847 CEBU:(032)2327380
For Dealer Sales Inquiries: Call 5240393 Loc. 205 Look for Terry, Wally, Abel or Ronie

11% growth in exports seen

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Exporters Confederation Inc. expects exports to maintain its 11-percent growth this year despite the projected slowdown in the US economy, the country's biggest market.

Philexport president Sergio Ortiz-Luis said exporters remained upbeat about keeping their double-digit sales growth this year because of resilient demand for the country's products, particularly electronics and semiconductors.

Exports were estimated to have grown by 11 percent to $39 billion in 2000 from $35 billion a year ago. Philexport said its expected exports to hit $43.3 billion this year while the Department of Trade and Industry was projecting a more conservative 5- to 8-percent growth to between $41 billion and $42 billion.

Ortiz-Luis said the electronics sector, which accounts for 70 percent of the country's total exports, would breach the $30-billion mark this year as the industry moves into the second year of its three-year upcycle.

Semiconductor and Electronics Institute of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) secretary general Ernesto Santiago said the industry's business cycle was again on a three-year cycle that will peak by 2002. Santiago cited the three-year upswing from 1994 to 1996 and a softening in the market from 1997 to 1999.

The semiconductor industry expected sales to hit $30 billion last year but as of October, its sales were only pegged at $22.31 billion, up 6 percent from $21.09 billion the previous year.

Ortiz-Luis said strong demand for electronic products in Asia and Europe would offset a possible decline in demand in the US, which has been the main driving force for the rapid global growth in the previous years.

Post-acquittal resignations

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

MALACAÑANG and its echoes in the media are already conditioning the public about the possibility of you-know-who getting acquitted of impeachment charges through technicalities and/or party-line voting.

What it has been careful not to acknowledge is that a second wave of resignations from the Cabinet and sub-Cabinet levels would be handed in irrespective of the impeachment verdict.

According to a pro-Malacañang grapevine, Economic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla and Education Secretary Andrew Gonzalez would turn in their irrevocable resignations at the conclusion of the impeachment hearings.

According to another grapevine, Sen. Anna Dominique Coseteng, whose term expires in June, is set to be promoted as tourism secretary, vice Gemma Cruz-Araneta, who could finally get her original pre-1998 election wish as ambassador to Mexico.

The Mexico post is currently occupied by, ironically, the "retirable" mother of Coseteng.

Given the graveness of the testimony of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, the so-called Espiritu boys still remaining within the finance department and government financial institutions—DBP excepted, having been ridden of Espiritu loyalists early on—are likely to join the exodus as well.

Of the four finance undersecretaries, three (Joel Bañares, Lily Gruba and Rod Castelo) were brought in by Espiritu and have been retained by Secretary Jose Pardo.

Over at the Government Service Insurance System, another Espiritu nominee, president Federico Pascual, is also almost sure to hand in next month his irrevocable resignation.

The banker-lawyer has a good alibi in case he gets questioned by Malacañang why he seems to be abandoning the ship—Pascual is seriously considering a career change that should be welcome news to his native Bataan.

How to contain bank run

THE BELEAGUERED Equitable PCI Bank may have stumbled on an unorthodox way to stop the exodus of jittery depositors from the bank.

A branch manager, who shall remain unidentified, has been offering to place the cash deposits of the wavering triple A depositors in their respective safety deposit boxes.

That way, the depositors would feel physical control over their respective monies without—and this is what Equitable PCI Bank hopes for—the cash going out of the bank.

To further boost their confidence, the depositors had been allowed to sign—shades of Jose Velarde?—blank-dated withdrawal slips that would enable them to take out their respective monies in a rush and without legal hitches should they so feel the need.

Air Force watches

FOR gifting each of the 1,571 Air Force officers with a watch during his tenure, retired PAF chief Lt. Gen. Willie Florendo is now receiving flak from, ironically, his former colleagues.

Florendo, who was commanding general of the Philippine Air Force from January 1999 to Oct. 10, 2000, paid more than P5.3 million for the Timex watches, all imprinted with the PAF logo.

The watches were procured from Newtrends International Corp. at Kampri Bldg., 2254 Pasong Tamo St., Makati, and paid for in cash, according to the Air Force grapevine.

What is unclear is the source of the P5.3-million cash that Florendo paid for the watches.

Short takes

- SIGFRID Fortun, one of the lawyers for you-know-who, wrote to say that the Opel Omega he and his lawyer-brother Raymund were using was bought way back in February 1999 and sports Plate No. WFD 572, contrary to a Jan. 12 Cocktales item.

Question: If that is true, how come the Opel Omega that picked up the two Fortun brothers from the Senate on Jan. 10 had no license plates?

- THE FULL transcripts of the Senate impeachment hearings may be downloaded for free from the official website of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. at www.nenepimentel.org.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos has declined overtures from Malacañang to join the administration senatorial slate for the May elections.

The administration party is apparently so desperate to include winnables and good men in its ticket that it now even offers to fully subsidize the campaign expenses of prospective candidates.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Phone firms, ISPs clash on new service

By Anthony O. Alcantara

PHONE companies and Internet service providers have opposed provisions in the memorandum circular of the National Telecommunications Commission that sought to allow ISPs to provide voice services.

NTC Commissioner Joseph A. Santiago said that while both parties were amenable to offering a new technology called voice-over-Internet protocol (VOIP), they disagreed on what rules or guidelines should be followed.

"We have therefore decided to have another draft of the proposed memo that would incorporate some of the suggestions of the telecom players and the ISPs," Santiago said.

He explained that only after the NTC shall have received additional inputs from the affected parties regarding the new draft of the memo would public hearings be held before finalizing the document.

The NTC commissioners were supposed to have an en banc meeting to finalize the memorandum in December. However, Santiago decided to have the NTC common carriers accreditation division seek industry reaction to a new draft of the memo.

He did not give any time frame for the finalization of the memo but said the new draft would incorporate the earlier inputs by phone companies and ISPs.

Through a technology called VOIP, subscribers of ISPs would be able to talk to people logged on to the Internet using their computers, telephone connection and other special equipment.

ISPs would therefore be encroaching upon the turf of traditional phone companies in the national long distance and international long distance market. At present, it is illegal for them to offer such services.

Under the first draft of the memorandum circular, ISPs must have a commercial agreement with authorized LECs before they could offer VOIP. They were also required only to use international leased lines or circuits from authorized international gateway facility operators.

NTC common carriers accreditation division chief Edgardo Cabarios said in an earlier interview that they had to "balance the interests of the phone companies, the ISPs and the consumers."

Four phone firms and two ISPs submitted their position papers to the NTC.

In separate letters to the NTC, Bayan Telecommunications Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. earlier said the proposed circular had provisions that could be detrimental to the operations of phone firms.

Bayantel argued that in principle, ISPs should not be allowed to offer VOIP because it is in essence a voice service. ISPs cannot act as a reseller of the service since "this can be argued as engaging in telecommunications business."

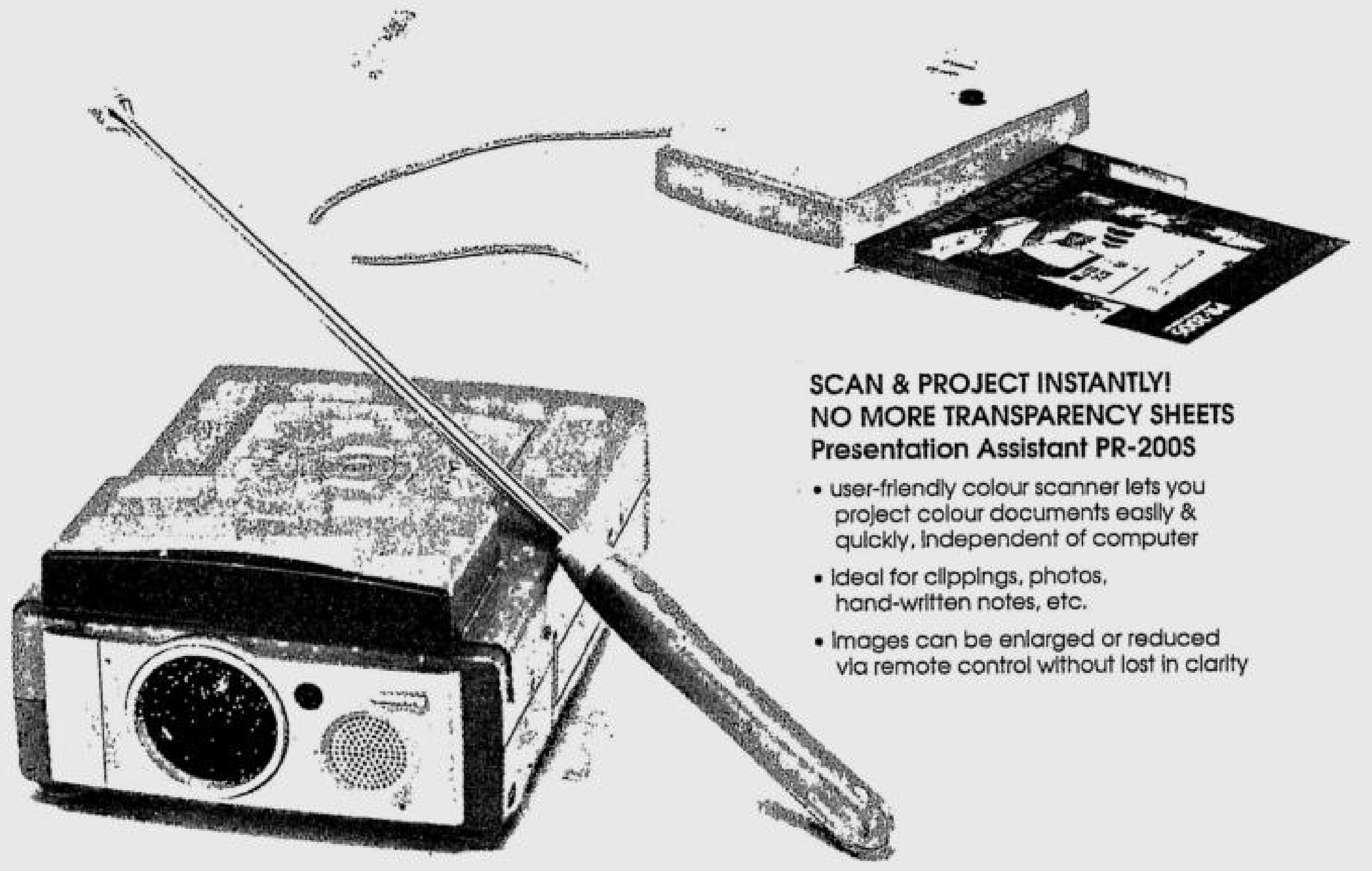
However, the company said ISPs could act as an agent of an enfranchised phone company offering an international gateway or a local exchange. This means that only a phone company can offer VOIP, while the ISP would act merely as an agent.

As for Smart, it argued that the deregulated rates for offering VOIP should be applicable to both ISPs and phone firms. The company said the NTC's plan to deregulate the rates only for the ISP would be "discriminatory" considering it is the same VOIP service.

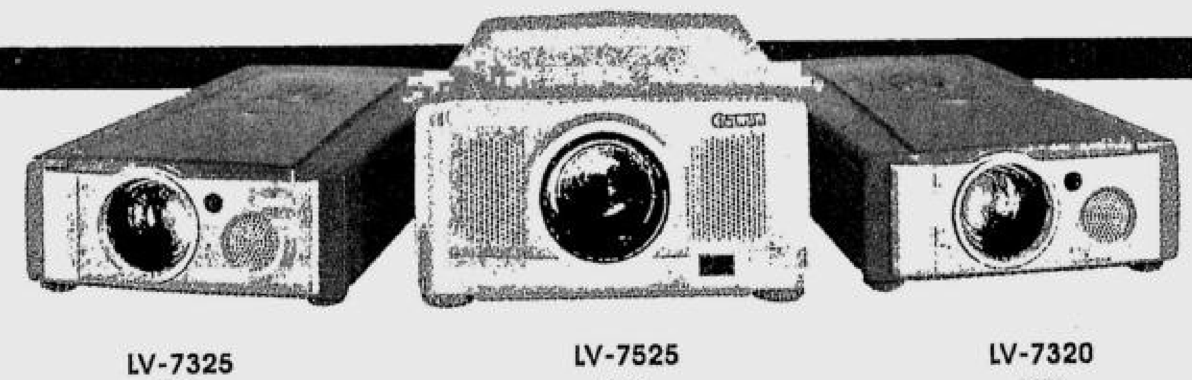
Smart also noted the need for a provision on the cross subsidy to local exchange carriers in order to determine the rates for VOIP.

A BRILLIANT STROKE OF THEATER FIRES OFF 2001!
Zeneida Amador
in
William Shakespeare's
King Lear
with:
Nieves Campa•Pinky Amador•Ana Abad Santos•Jaime del Mundo
Paolo Fabregas•Miguel Vasquez•Richard Joson•Jeremy Domingo
Paul Holme•Peter Heath•Maritoni Rufino-Tordesillas
Designed and Directed by Anton Juan
January 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27•7:30 PM
January 11, 14, 18, 21, 25 & 28•3:00 PM
Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (CCP Little Theater)
TICKETS AT P400/ P300 NOW AVAILABLE AT CCP BOX OFFICE
& ALL TICKETWORLD NATIONAL BOOKSTORE OUTLETS
OR CALL CCP MARKETING TEL NOS 832-3878 & 551-7930
A project of the Cultural Center of the Philippines with The World Theater Project at Sambalikhaan

Only Canon offers a brilliant MultiMedia Projection System!



SCAN & PROJECT INSTANTLY!
NO MORE TRANSPARENCY SHEETS
Presentation Assistant PR-200S
• user-friendly colour scanner lets you project colour documents easily & quickly, independent of computer
• ideal for clippings, photos, hand-written notes, etc.
• Images can be enlarged or reduced via remote control without lost in clarity
OPERATE MOUSE AND ILLUSTRATE BY
REMOTE CONTROL POINTER
Digitizer LV-DP10/LV-DP11
• conveniently combines all remote control & mouse functions
• works interactively with computer via optical detection system
• easy to illustrate and write on projected images



LV-7325
1500
ANSI Lumens
LV-7525
2750
ANSI Lumens
LV-7320
1250
ANSI Lumens
Canon Multi-Media Projectors: Brilliant Images Even In Bright Light.
Over a half-century of Canon's optical innovation ensures that your multi-media presentations are a dazzling success. A large projection lens achieves a centre resolution of up to 63 lines/mm with less than 0.5% edge distortion. Fly-eye lenses are incorporated into the array, ensuring over 90% uniformity in light distribution. And Canon Multi-media Projectors feature the exclusive Turbo Bright System, which utilises orange to optimise light rays without distorting overall colour balance. The net result is a 25% increase in brightness and superb images even in well-lit rooms. Add the Digitizer and Presentation Assistant, you have the unparalleled brilliance and control of a Canon multi-media projection system.
Technology that makes you smile
YES! I want to know more about the Canon Multi-Media Projectors featured here.
Name: ____
Company Name: ____
Address: ____
____ Tel./Fax: ____
PLEASE FAX TO 812-0087
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: CANON SINGAPORE PTE LTD 79 ANSON ROAD #09-01/06 SINGAPORE 079906 INTERNET: http://www.canon.com.ph
CANON MARKETING PHILIPPINES, INC. MARVIN PLAZA BLDG. 2153 DON CHINO ROCES AVENUE, MAKATI CITY.
TEL: 812-6047/892-6449 FAX: 812-0067. E-mail address: cmp_sales@canon.com.ph
BRANCHES: BATAAN Dilig Bldg., Manuel Banzon Street Balanga, Bataan Tel: (047)237-21-51
CEBU Door 10, IP & 20 Free Star Arcade Hernan Cortes Street, Subangdaku, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tel: (032)345-36-80 (032)345-38-21 Fax: (032)344-67-76
DAVAO Door 1 Navigators Building, Ponce Cor. Gempesaw Streets Davao City Tel: (082)222-33-92
LA UNION Grd Flr., Magdalena Peralta Building Sevilla Norte, Quezon Avenue San Fernando, La Union
Tel. (072)242-04-40 / (072)242-45-87
LEGAZPI Door 7 & 8 CEA Building Ground Floor, Lapu-Lapu Street Legazpi City
Tel. (052)480-63-31 / (052)214-38-63
Canon
Technology that makes you smile

CLEANSING REFORMS

PSE braces for Estrada's acquittal

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOCAL stock market is bracing itself for the backlash following the possible acquittal of President Estrada, even as it looks forward to the end of the impeachment trial on Feb. 12.

Analysts said the stock market has been resilient since last week as the political crises and the level of graft and corruption have been factored in the valuation of listed company shares.

"Slowly but surely, it is no longer becoming a question of acquittal or conviction but a question of cleansing and political reforms. We identify valuations, regional flows and political reforms to bring the composite index gradually higher toward the 1,800-level," Securities 2000 Inc. research head Erwin Tan said.

Tan said life would definitely go on in the stock market whatever verdict the Senate would hand down at the conclusion of the long impeachment drama.

Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas also said that the market has started to look for a second best alternative in case the Senate acquits the President of the charges of graft and corruption and betrayal of public trust.

Roxas said the market seemed willing to accept Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara as the one who would actually run the government while Mr. Estrada would be reduced to "a titular leader who would have nothing left to do but to cut ribbons during ceremonies."

Tan said the market has looked beyond the impeachment trial as seen in the slow but sure 24-percent rise in the composite index since the bottom in October last year when impeachment charges were filed against President Estrada.

"From then till now, the whole country has watched and heard shocking revelations of illegal bank accounts, dummy accounts, cover-up operations, illegal gambling operations, smugglers, stock price manipulations, lavish mansions, bribes and bribe attempts, death threats and money laundering," he said.

Yet surprisingly, Tan said there remained a semblance of foreign fund investment even as local businessmen have lost confidence in the market.

"In the huge financial world that we have outside, we play a very small, and sometimes insignificant, role as we've been viewed in tandem with the other PIT countries—Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand. And yet, we have seen the Phisix and Thailand rise 24 percent from their lows last October," Tan said.

Tan said the market has factored in the political risk as part of the cost of doing business in the Philippines.

"Otherwise, if one cannot stomach it, then just stay out. For most locals that have more restricted list of options outside, life must go on. For the more daring ones, one may even be rewarded with the possible upside provided by reforms. Most certainly, I am not expecting drastic reforms that would result in the political will to totally eliminate graft and corruption in the system," Tan said.

He said among the lessons the Philippines could learn from the crisis, were:

- Political officials and businessmen would now try to avoid public humiliation and risk legal entanglements, say civil and criminal charges, in their daily chores.
- After the whole exercise, one would probably see more discrete and more suave operations in contrast to the "wide open" and oftentimes "vulgar" operations uncovered during the hearings.
- Hopefully, the role of a slightly more level-playing field to be displayed by the government.
- Voters will probably be "slightly" more discriminating in choosing their public officials, although a decent portion can probably still be persuaded by other means outside of their conscience.

"We see the market betting on the tune of reforms—whether the cleansing period will have a positive effect or not," he said.

Equitable

(From page B1)

banks, two foreign groups believed to be the American Insurance Group (AIG) and Newbridge Capital Inc., have expressed interest to acquire a controlling stake in the country's third largest lender.

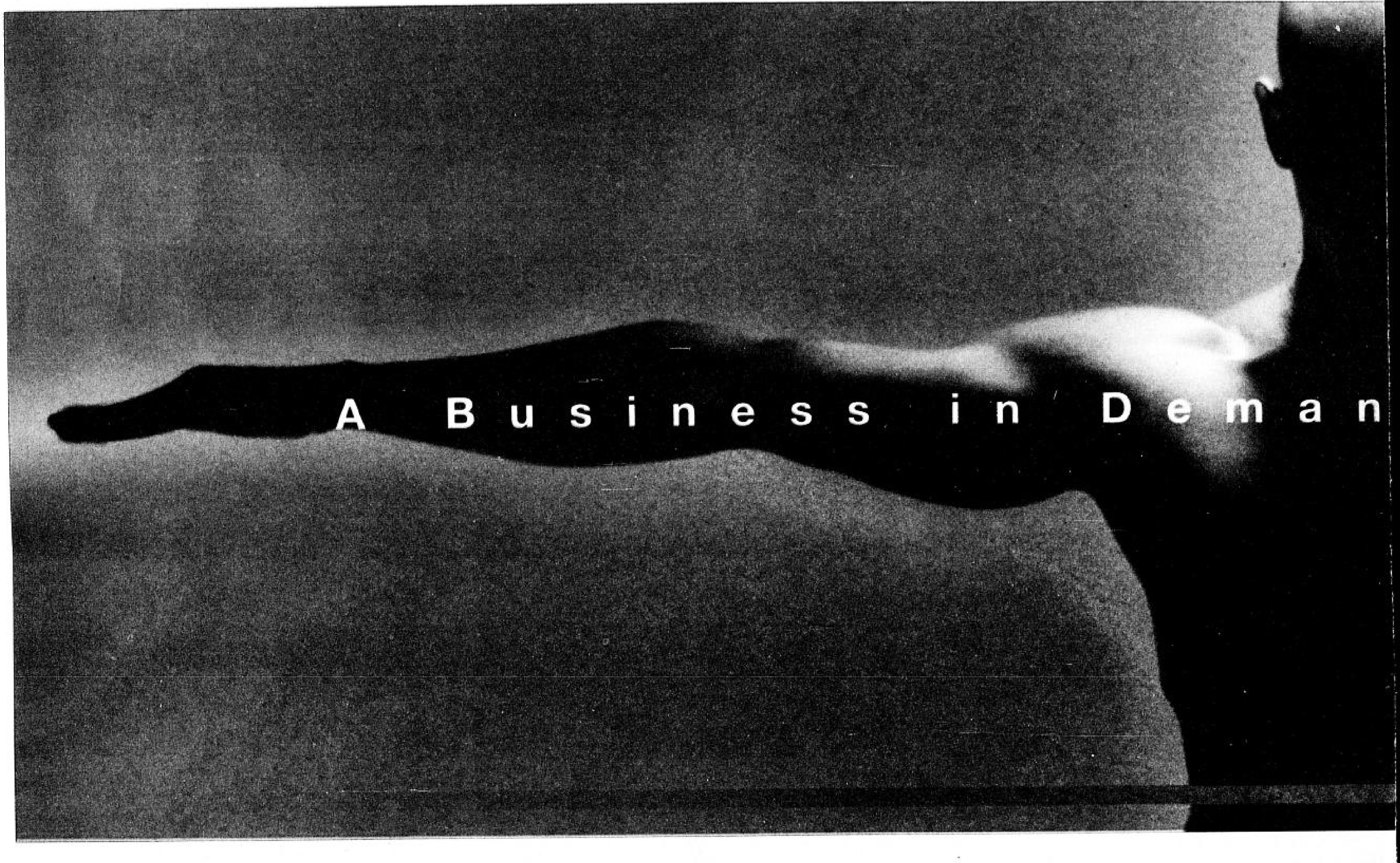
Keppel TatLee Bank, a unit of Singapore conglomerate Keppel Corp., last year offered to buy a portion of the 17-percent stake of state pension fund Social Security System in Equitable PCI Bank.

The deal, however, bogged down shortly after Keppel TatLee completed its due diligence due to a sudden downturn in market conditions.

The SSS now holds a 25-percent stake in the bank after having increased its holdings through additional market purchases.

Sources at the bank said another major shareholder, former chair George Go, was planning to sell his stake. Go could not be reached for comment.

Go and his family own about 30 percent of Equitable PCI Bank. Another state pension fund said to be putting up its stake for sale, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), holds 12 percent. *With a report from Reuters*



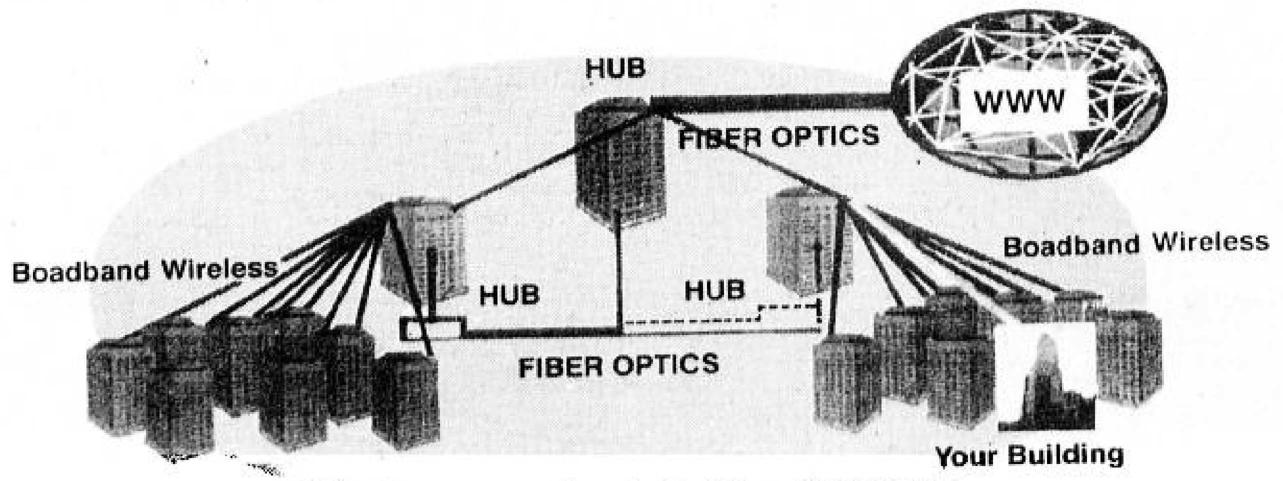
Broadband Wireless Technology-Providing the most reliable service in the country.

Broadband Philippines, the country's premier broadband service provider, introduces a state-of-the-art technology known as Broadband Wireless Technology in the Philippine communications scene.

Broadband Wireless Technology uses microwave frequencies to transmit your data at speeds up to 4 Gbps. With new modulation schemes being developed now, this capacity will be increased further by 4 to 5 times. Broadband Wireless technology is superior in the sense that it can be deployed rapidly, is cost-effective and future-proof. Being cost-effective means Broadband Philippines can translate this into better value and service to its customers. Future proof means that it is able to scale upwards and integrate with old and new systems or applications.

Aside from Broadband Wireless Technology, Broadband Philippines will also be using Fiber Optics, the ultimate solution to Internet and data networks. With Fiber Optics Technology, glass threads are used to transmit data using light as a medium. In addition, data is transmitted digitally (the natural form of computer data) rather than in analog form. This technology greatly increases speed of transmission by multiples of thousands.

Broadband Wireless Technology and Fiber Optics provide the best combination of capacity, economies, and ease of deployment. This combination provides Broadband Philippines a quantum leap over its competitors and allows it to offer the most reliable service in the country.



Broadband Philippines' eBuilding Community

With all the talk about Broadband lately, freelance writer Maelyn M. Angulo recently sat down with Broadband Philippines Chairman and CEO Joey de Venecia and their VP for Marketing Martin Nery to find out more about the company's plans

Angulo: What is broadband?

De Venecia: Broadband communications is the next step in integrating Philippine corporations with the world. It changes the way we do business. You're able to transfer data files at very high speed. You are able to manage communication processes in a more efficient way at less cost.

Broadband is basically a highway that we are setting up. On this highway, companies can work as one. If you have a company and you want to communicate with your sales teams, you can meet with them in virtually one location using this broadband highway. You can have five remote offices having video conferences with the sales manager to plan sales strategies for the day or for the week. Top managers can have video conferences with anyone in the organization at any given time.

You will need at least a 384 kbps (thousand bits of data per second) link from a telecommunications company to be able to do video conferencing. And that's very expensive. For small and medium enterprises, it's very costly. That is what we are planning to address.

Angulo: How do you plan to introduce broadband in the Philippines?

De Venecia: Broadband Philippines is the first telecommunication operator in the country that will use both wired and wireless technologies. On the first-mile connection to the customers, it is what you call the broadband wireless or the wireless protocol whose quality is equivalent to fiber optics. Our value proposition is we will be delivering fiber optic quality communication to customers to enable them to do a wide array of services like video conferencing; set up private networks, have faster Internet connectivity, and other things at very reasonable cost. Since our network will be both wired and wireless, we are able to effectively lower our charges to customers.

Bro

DaimlerChrysler's Schrempp pledges to resurrect Chrysler

DETROIT—Reportedly under pressure to turn around his company's struggling Chrysler unit, DaimlerChrysler AG's chair has pledged to revive the US-based automaker—with no plans to sell or spin it off.

"I am totally committed to returning Chrysler to profitability," Juergen Schrempp told the Automotive News World Congress Monday night. "I will not rest until this (Chrysler) company, this American icon, is back where it belongs at the top of the industry."

Schrempp deferred specifics about how he might restructure Chrysler, saying such details would come late next month with "a clear time frame for the recovery process (and) a series of concrete and tangible milestones."

Still, Schrempp said "basic assumptions for this turnaround" would emphasize products rather than incentives to push sales, better balanced vehicle production, volume and pricing, and adjust Chrysler's cost structure.

Saying any decisions on changes at Chrysler rest with a top-level management team he installed in November, Schrempp said "they have great ideas, now firmly rooted in the reality of the market."

"They know it's going to be a long haul, but they are committed to getting Chrysler back on track," Schrempp said. "Here in the United States, we were the first into the valley, but perhaps we will be the first ones out."

Schrempp also tried to soothe shareholders troubled, among other things, by Chrysler shares that have gone soft, closing Friday on the New York Stock Exchange at $42.01, well off the 52-week high of $74.63.

"I can assure you in the event of being a stockholder—it's the wrong time to sell. It's the right time to buy," Schrempp said.

With DaimlerChrysler's resources, he added, the Chrysler unit would become "a dolphin in a sea of whales and sharks—a little faster, smarter and friendlier."

Schrempp also said DaimlerChrysler plans to invest $43 billion over the next three years "to produce a cascade of groundbreaking ideas," launch 60 new models over the next four years and renew nearly 80 percent of its product range over the next five years.

Schrempp added that DaimlerChrysler had no plans to share platforms between the automaker's Mercedes and Chrysler brands.

Earlier Monday, DaimlerChrysler's biggest shareholder came to the German-American automaker's backing a day after a British newspaper said heavyweight investors were pressuring for a breakup of the troubled 1998 merger between Daimler-Benz AG and Chrysler Corp.

DaimlerChrysler called The Sunday Times of London's report speculative. And Deutsche Bank—the company's largest shareholder, with a 12-percent stake—said it would stand behind Schrempp's bid to boost the loss-making, US-based Chrysler unit.

The Sunday Times said some of the company's largest shareholders were giving Schrempp six months to turn Chrysler around or break up the world's fifth-largest automaker formed by the union. *AP*

McDonald's deepens ties with Walt Disney

NEW YORK—McDonald's Corp., the world's largest restaurant chain, was deepening its alliance with entertainment conglomerate Walt Disney Co. with a new restaurant and more marketing programs, McDonald's USA president Alan Feldman said Monday.

McDonald's is opening a full service restaurant named "Burger Invasion" at Disney's California Adventure Park on Feb. 8, marking the first time the chain had a site inside a Disney-owned park. McDonald's has restaurants on Disney property but not inside the theme parks.

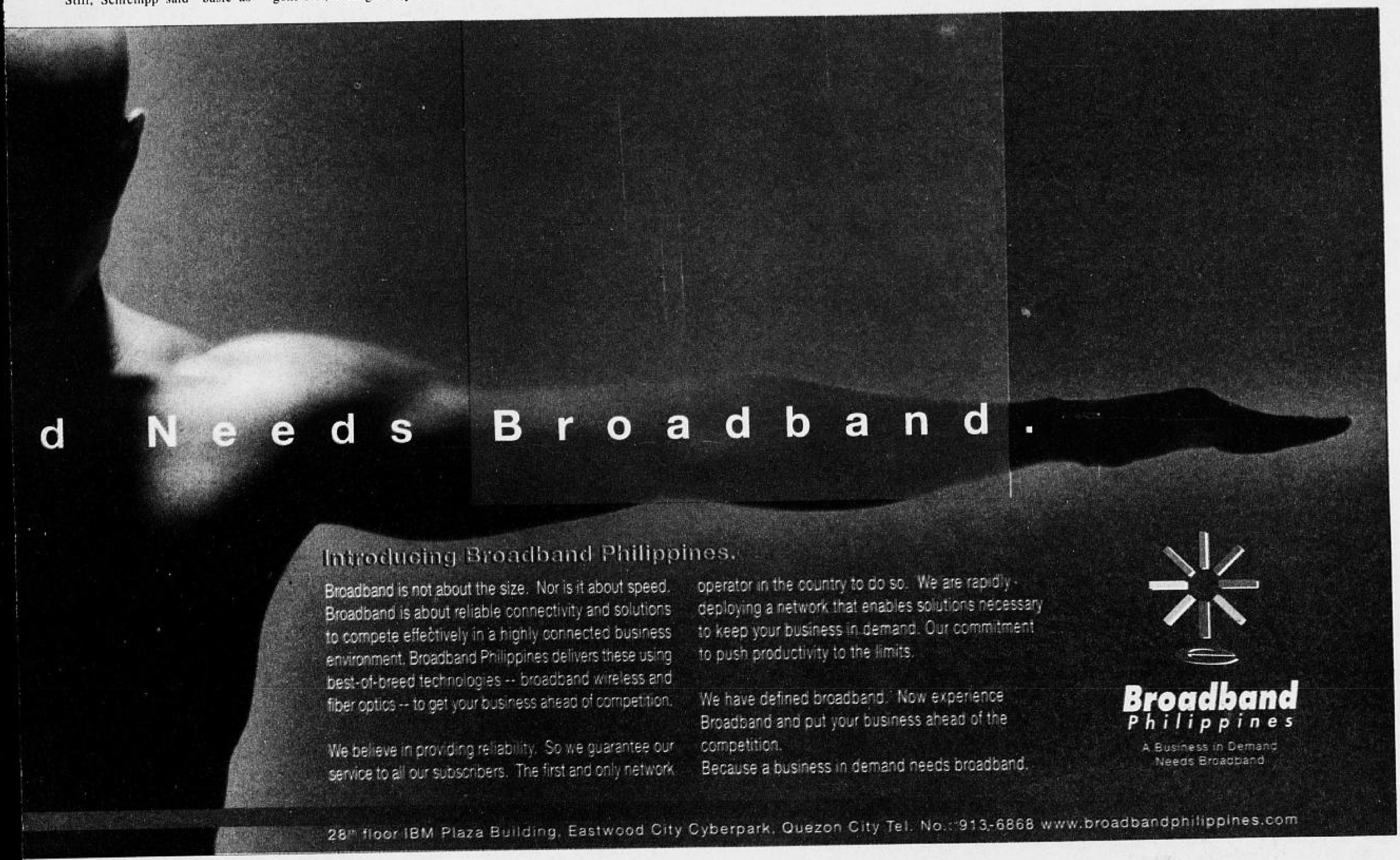
Feldman said there were no plans to take the hamburger-shaped restaurant to other locations or outside California Adventure. He declined to talk about the financial arrangements of the new restaurant.

"It's a spectacular venue. I think Disney and McDonald's will be very happy with the results," Feldman said in a telephone interview. The McDonald's restaurant at the Downtown Disney location in Florida was in the top one percent of all 28,000 restaurants.

The Burger Invasion restaurant, which will carry items from the McDonald's menu and have a dessert counter, is part of a 10-year alliance between McDonald's and Disney, which is presently in its fifth year.

Under the alliance, Disney is licensing its classic characters such as Mickey Mouse for use as the toy in McDonald's Happy Meals.

Feldman said the "House of Mouse" Happy Meal promotion in February would mark the first time that Mickey Mouse had been licensed for use by a company other than Walt Disney. *Reuters*


d Needs Broadband.

Introducing Broadband Philippines.

Broadband is not about the size. Nor is it about speed. Broadband is about reliable connectivity and solutions to compete effectively in a highly connected business environment. Broadband Philippines delivers these using best-of-breed technologies -- broadband wireless and fiber optics -- to get your business ahead of competition.

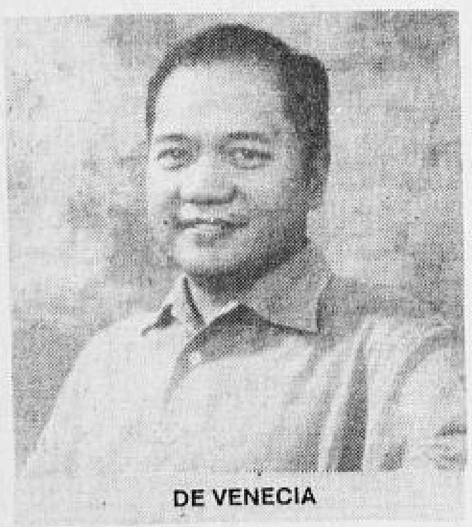
We believe in providing reliability. So we guarantee our service to all our subscribers. The first and only network operator in the country to do so. We are rapidly deploying a network that enables solutions necessary to keep your business in demand. Our commitment to push productivity to the limits.

We have defined broadband. Now experience Broadband and put your business ahead of the competition.
Because a business in demand needs broadband.

Broadband
Philippines
A Business in Demand
Needs Broadband

28th floor IBM Plaza Building, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Quezon City Tel. No.: 913-6868 www.broadbandphilippines.com

adband finally takes off in the Philippines.


DE VENECIA

When you look at the traditional telecommunications network, 70 percent of the cost of these networks is spent on diggings in the ground and on setting up cables. In our network we don't have those things. We put a broadband wireless radio on top of a building and invest on that building by cabling in that building and connecting customers in that building to our network. The value proposition there for building owners is we make their buildings broadband-ready.

Angulo: How would you describe the present telecommunications network we have in the country?

De Venecia: The present telecommunication infrastructure in the Philippines is not broadband but narrow band, because primarily it is for voice or phone calls. I remember when I was first connecting to the Internet, the modem speed I was using was 1200 baud and when it went up to 9.6 kbps, I was able to use the fax. When it went up to 14.4 kbps, I was able to do my e-mail yet it was still very slow. As the band became broader, we got new applications such as surfing the Internet. When we continue to improve the size of the highway, the size of the pipe, we can do more complex things.

That is why we have positioned ourselves to apply best-of-breed technologies to be able to address the expanding needs of corporations in the Philippines. Let's say you want to transfer the engineering design of an entire building, say a 20-megabit file, you'll need at least eight hours to do that using today's telecom infrastructure. Secondly, since our telecom infrastructure is really for voice and not for data, you'll be lucky if you'll be able to complete that process. Sometimes the line just gets dropped and you have to download it again. In our network, we do that task in one minute because the capacity is so vast and broad.

Angulo: What is your company's focus right now?

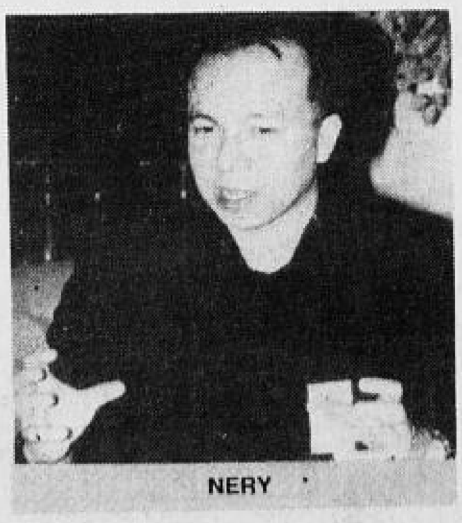
Nery: Our aim is to service our corporate customers well. Thus, we are now focused on building the most reliable broadband Internet and data network in the country.

Angulo: Do you plan to offer your services to households?

De Venecia: Broadband services are more concentrated with the corporate side. Our business model is building-centric, that is, we invest in buildings which house our corporate customers. We are currently deploying our network in Metro Manila, wiring buildings and putting radios on these buildings. We are creating an **e Building community** within our network. We're addressing the corporate market because this is really the driver of our economy. The performance of these companies will bring the economic benefits down to their employees.

Angulo: Do you think broadband will spur the growth of the Internet in the Philippines?

De Venecia: The growth of the Internet is driven by two things. First is the price of computers. It has not really gone down. If you'll buy a multimedia computer now, you'll have to spend 20-plus thousand or more. With the disposable income of the Filipinos, we're not there yet, unlike our neighbors. So computer penetration in the Philippines has not taken off as fast as in other countries. Second, the telecom infrastructure is not really there. It's there but the quality is really for voice, not for data transmission. In order to drive Internet usage and growth, the proper broadband infrastructure is necessary.


NERY

Angulo: There are other broadband providers that are coming out lately. What makes your company different?

Nery: It is our belief that technology will continue to improve and that we need to have an ALL-NEW network in place that was designed for broadband from the start. It is not meant to disparage other technologies but we feel that not having to upgrade old networks means a brand new network that is broadband inside and out, a service that grows with the customers needs. It is also our belief that old networks designed for things other than broadband can only be upgraded so much until it hits the limit. You cannot force true broadband into copper infrastructure, which is primarily designed for voice calls. There is only so much copper can do.

In fact, we are so confident about the technologies we are deploying and its reliability that we are willing to provide a guarantee of availability of service to all our customers across the board—a first in the Philippines.

TARGET SET AT $25 A BARREL

Oil producers push plans to reduce output

VIENNA—Opec oil producers pressed ahead Monday with plans for a deep cut in crude supplies, re-igniting concerns in the West about energy price inflation.

Determined to underpin the price of Opec oil at $25 a barrel, the cartel is expected to slice exports by about 1.5 million barrels daily, just over 5 percent.

Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Ali al-Naimi, told reporters the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries needed to make that scale of cut to keep international oil markets in balance.

Ministers, gathering to meet Wednesday, fear anything less could see oil prices nosedive when winter demand peters out.

"All our figures indicate that there has been an oversupply of crude over the past few months and stocks at the level of the consumer have risen sharply," Opec secretary general Ali Rodriguez told Reuters.

"The cut in production is aimed at stabilizing prices within the $22-$28 price band for Opec's basket."

The West fears that a big cut in output could aggravate an economic slowdown in the United States by forcing up energy costs.

Those concerns were underlined by a rise in the price of oil futures in London Monday. Brent blend crude gained 43 cents to $26.20 a barrel. US light crude edged above $30 last week but Opec's basket of inferior quality crudes still was valued below $25.

The United States, supported by the European Union, appears to have failed to persuade Opec that it should make only a modest reduction.

Heavy lobbying from Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, finishing a six-nation Opec tour Monday, has fallen on deaf ears.

"They do not want any cuts at all because they want very low prices," Opec's Algerian president, Chakib Khelil, told reporters in his Vienna hotel lobby.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Saud al-Sabah said after his meeting with Richardson Sunday that Opec remained on course to lower deliveries by 1.5 million bpd.

That would cut output for 10 members to a collective 25.2 million bpd. Sanctions-bound Iraq is not party to Opec's quota system.

Others, including Venezuela, Algeria, Indonesia and Qatar, will push for a larger reduction of up to 2 million bpd.

"Our position has not changed to back an oil cut of 1.5 to 2 million barrels per day," Venezuelan Oil Minister Alvaro Silva said after meeting Richardson in London.

Riyadh already has told its customers to expect a reduction in deliveries in February equivalent to its one-third share of an Opec cut of 1.5 million bpd.

Washington argues that anything other than a modest cut could hurt already fragile economic growth in the world's biggest energy consuming nation.

Opec looks at the issue from a different perspective. It is worried that slower world growth will translate into lower consumption of its crude.

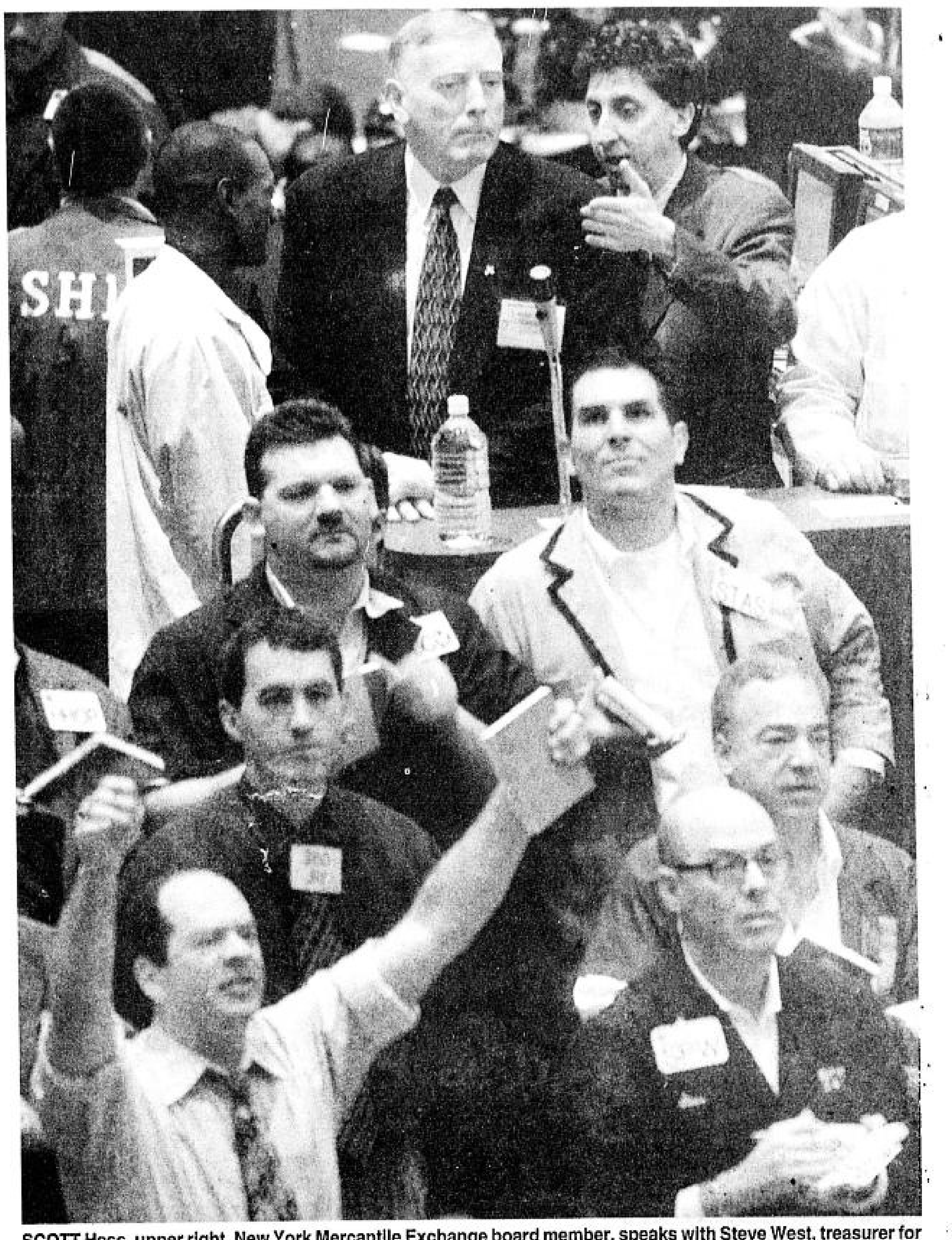
"World economic growth is going to be slower this year than last and that will impact oil demand," said Rodriguez.

But he conceded that if cartel policy forced prices too high, then production could be lifted again.

"After cutting production, if prices rise too much we can always correct that because it's always more easy to correct an increase in price than a fall."

Key to price movements will be the impact on inventories of the output curbs.

Stocks of crude and petroleum products that fell dangerously low last year are on the mend but consumers fear that Opec's intended action will halt stockbuilds prematurely. *Reuters*



SCOTT Hess, upper right, New York Mercantile Exchange board member, speaks with Steve West, treasurer for the province of Alberta, Canada, in the crude oil ring during a tour at the New York Mercantile Exchange. AP

Big Apple braces to ride out looming US economic storm

NEW YORK—Flying into New York is a lottery these days.

With a rejuvenated Empire State economy cruising at a high altitude after four years of growth, New York City's cramped airports are feeling the strain, prompting officials at LaGuardia airport last month to adopt a lottery system to share out its sought-after landing slots.

While tourists and business travelers are flocking to the booming Big Apple, however, the state economy—America's second largest—is unlikely to remain untouched by a broader economic slowdown under way across the nation, economists say.

What may save the state and its neighboring Northeastern states of Connecticut and Massachusetts from the worst excesses of a slowing national economy is the resilience of the thriving financial services industry, they say.

"Even if the nation slows down, I think New York will continue to outperform the rest of the country. This is more like 1987 when the stock market collapsed, which led to a slowdown but not a recession," said Stephen Kagann, chief economist at the Office of the Governor of New York.

"But New York is not immune, particularly upstate, which is the industrial region," he added.

New York State has long been a tale of two economies. A heavily urbanized southern or downstate area is dominated by service-oriented firms, particularly in the financial, media and tourist sectors. Upstate is more industrial and agricultural.

So far, the downturn in industrial activity in the north, tracing a pattern across the United States as manufacturing firms cope with the high interest rates, has been tempered by the still-buoyant service sectors from Wall Street to New York City's high-tech "Silicon Alley."

New York's economy was hit hard at the start of the last US recession, which ran from 1990 to 1991. Downstate recovered in 1996 but upstate was more sluggish, not picking up until 1997.

The National Association of Purchasing Managers index for New York, a gauge of business activity, showed a dip in December to 289 from 291.5 the previous month, the first month-on-month drop since January 1999. But the private sector firm noted that purchasing managers said the slip in activity was extremely modest and industrial labor hiring remained robust.

"The Big Apple economy has only been lightly touched by the national business slowdown currently underway," Marc Goloven, a senior regional economist at Chase Manhattan Bank and director of the New York branch of NAPM, said.

But there were signs of weakness in the state's industrial sector, which accounts for half of upstate employment. The manufacturing index tumbled sharply to 33.3 for December from 75 a month earlier, NAPM-NY reported. *Reuters*

Indonesia gains from reforms

SINGAPORE—Indonesia is beginning to reap the benefits of its economic reforms, according to its trade minister, Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan.

In a briefing to business leaders, Pandjaitan said Indonesia revised its growth forecasts upwards as the benefits of reforms undertaken after the 1997 Asian financial crisis began to kick in.

"Although these policies have, in the short term, caused strains on our economy, the benefits are beginning to come through," he said.

"This does not mean that I intend to ignore the number of problems faced by my country, but these problems should not eclipse the opportunities that continue to exist in Indonesia."

The upbeat message contrasted with outside opinions, such as a recent Asian Development Bank warning that rising government budget deficits and debts threatened Indonesia's economic recovery.

International Monetary Fund chief Horst Koehler last week urged Jakarta to accept the need for an independent central bank that would be "important for stabilizing the confidence of private markets."

Pandjaitan, in Singapore to update potential investors on Indonesia's progress, said Jakarta now expected final figures for last year to show a growth of 4.8 percent, well up on initial forecasts of 4 percent, with inflation at 9.2 percent.

In the first 11 months of 2000, exports were up 26 percent on the previous year, he said.

The healthy report card was achieved through the government's commitment to undertake the necessary economic medicine even at a time of great social change taking place in the country, Pandjaitan said.

"Faced with these challenges, our government has remained steadfast in avoiding short-term fixes and instead we have focused on implementing policies that would bring major and long-term benefits," he said.

"Quite apart from nurturing a fledging democracy, Indonesia has also had to maintain religious harmony in a country of great diversity during a period of social uphill resulting from the economic recession," he said, referring to rising separatist movements and sectarian unrest in the country.

The wave of unrest and demands for independence was supported by a minority of Indonesians, Pandjaitan said. *AFP*

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

100

MANILA SECOND SEWERAGE PROJECT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(for Shortlisting of Consultants)

1. The METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (MWSS) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) referred to as the World Bank towards the cost of the Manila Second Sewerage Project (MSSP) and intends to apply portion of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for services of Consultants.
2. The MWSS hereinafter referred to as the Employer, intends to shortlist Consultants for the following contracts:
   - MSSP 4 - Construction Supervision for the Rehabilitation of the Manila Central Sewerage System
   - MSSP 9 - Preliminary Design, Detailed Design and Construction Supervision for Sewerage System in Depressed areas
   - MSSP 10 - Detailed Design and Construction Supervision for Sewer Extension in the Central Sewerage System
3. The MWSS thru its West Zone concessionaire, MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC. (MWSI) invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.) In addition, the Consultants shall submit a notarized/sworn statement stating thereof the consultancy cost per project basis, for all completed and on-going contracts undertaken by the firm. Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.
4. This invitation is for the purpose of drawing up a long list of Consultants that claim expertise in Preliminary Design, Detailed Design and Construction Supervision and which shall be the basis of determining the shortlist of Consultants that will be invited to submit detailed proposals.
5. Shortlisting of Consultants shall be done in accordance with National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Guidelines on the Procurement of Consultancy Services for Government Projects.
6. All affiliated companies of MWSI are disqualified to participate. Affiliated companies are those which the concessionaires exercise control of voting stocks or which operate with them as part of a system or enterprise. They shall include, but not limited to those corporations, which are subsidiaries owned or controlled by the concessionaires, or corporations in which the concessionaires have substantial interest.
7. Interested Consultants may obtain further information and secure the standard format of the sworn statement at the address below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM during week day:

RIZALDY G. DE GUZMAN
Asst. Program Manager, Sewerage
MWSI-Capital Investment Program Management Division
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 433-2807 / 435-4379
Fax No (632) 435-2182
E-mail: zaldy.deguzman@mayniladwater.com.ph

8. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by February 09, 2001 until 5:00 PM.

THE ADMINISTRATOR
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. No (632) 922-3757
Fax No (632) 921-2887

9. Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's "Guidelines, Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers," January 1997 (revised September 1997 and January 1999).

(Sgd.) JOSE F. MABANTA
Administrator

(PDI – Jan. 15 & 17, 2001)

Singapore, Japan open free trade talks

SINGAPORE—Singapore and Japan opened talks on a bilateral free trade agreement here yesterday, confident of achieving their end-of-year target to ink the accord.

The negotiations would be centered on the Japan-Singapore Free Trade Agreement joint study presented to Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and his Singapore counterpart, Goh Chok Tong, last year. Singapore's deputy prime minister, Lee Hsien Loong, who is in Tokyo this week, was told by Japanese leaders they were positive the agreement would be sealed by December, the Business Times said Tuesday quoting a government spokesman.

"They were positive and very confident about being able to meet the deadline and agreed with Lee that we should all try to put in our energies to get that done," the spokesman said.

Three days of preparatory talks will be held in Singapore this week, followed by negotiations in both Singapore and Tokyo throughout the year.

Negotiations will be held behind closed doors and announcements will be made when there are developments.

The joint study, which received the blessing of both prime ministers last September, called for a "new age partnership" in such areas as trade in goods and services, investment, harmonization of regulatory procedures, and competition policy.

Tech-savvy Singapore was expected to push for information and communication technology to be covered by the accord.

When completed, it will be the first free trade agreement for Japan, one of the few industrial countries that does not already have any such accords.

Singapore is negotiating an array of bilateral free trade agreements, which some critics argue will undermine regional and World Trade Organization efforts toward trade liberalization.

At the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Brunei last November, noted economist Fred Bergsten singled out the draft plan for Singapore-Japan as likely to pose an obstacle toward overall free trade around the Pacific.

The plan stated Japan was not prepared to liberalize in agriculture, fishery and forest products, which "clearly violates the agreed precept of Apec liberalization of comprehensive coverage," Bergsten said. *AFP*

Intel to buy Xircom for $748M

NEW YORK—Intel Corp., the world's largest computer chip maker, has agreed to acquire Xircom Inc. for $748 million to complement its line of desktop computer components.

Intel would make a $25 a share tender offer for all of Xircom's stock within 10 days, the companies said.

The acquisition was expected to be completed in the first quarter of the year, the companies said. Upon completion of the acquisition, Xircom would become a wholly owned subsidiary of Santa Clara, California-based Intel.

Xircom, a maker of network adapters and modems, reported a loss of $2.46 million, or 8 cents a share, on sales of $120.1 million for the first quarter ended Dec. 31. The earnings per share, excluding an acquisition charge, were 1 cent, which was below the 14 cents a share that analysts surveyed by First Call/ Thomson Financial were expecting.

"The acquisition of Xircom provides Intel with an award-winning lineup of products and technologies in the fast-growing mobile computing area," Mark Christensen, Intel vice president and general manager of Intel's Network Communications Group, said in a statement. *Reuters*

AUCTION

Equipment formerly the property of Read-Rite Philippines Inc.

A HUGE QUANTITY OF CLEAN ROOM FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF MAGNETIC RECORDING HEADS; OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT; ETC.

Over 1000 lots including

CLEAN ROOM FURNITURE - (200+) Stainless Steel Tables; (300+) Clean-Room Chairs; (150+) Wooden Work Benches; (80+) Stainless Steel Racking Systems; Stainless Steel Trolleys; Stainless Steel Cabinets; Stainless Steel Shoe Racks; Stainless Steel Smock Hangers; Stainless Steel Trash Cans; etc.
PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT - (3) CREST; KERRY Aqueous Cleaning Machines; PERKIN ELMER Auto System XL Gas Chromatograph; Ion Chromatograph; Optoflex Systems; Manual Swage Press; (2) WALKER.DCM Magnetizers; (72)Re-grammers; (15) Power Distribution Boxes; (16) LESCO Auto Curing Systems; (38) Asstd. Power Supplies; (42) Eliminator Testers; (120) GLE Gram Load Enhancers; (300+) SIMCO Top Guns; (150+) Asstd. SIMCO Ionizing Blowers; (200+) 3M Workstation Monitors; (150+) Hepa Filter Frames; (400+) Hepa Filters Asstd; Filteration Motors; SWEEPSONIC Ultrasonic Generators; etc.
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Leather, Fabric Upholstered Executive Chairs; Fabric Upholstered Clerical Chairs; LUXUS Executive Desks; Computer Tables; Centric Tables; Credenzas; Display Cabinets; (200+) Personnel Lockers; Twelve Station Modular Office Furniture w/ Partitions; Seven Station Modular Office Furniture w/ Partitions; Electronic White Board; Notice Boards; etc.
MISC.- (300,000+) Disposable Face Masks; (20,000+) Plastic Bags; (75+) Bunny Suits; (3) Singer Industrial Sewing Machines; Brass Bar; Pneumatic Brass Fittings & Pneumatic Pipe; Air Regulators; Aluminum Light Fixtures; PVC Pipe; Electrical Wire Ways w/ Sockets; etc.

AT: Unit 1, Silangan,Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna
ON: Thursday, 18th January 2001 and (if required) Friday, 19th January 2001 at 10:30am Sharp
ON VIEW: Wednesday, 17th January 2001, 9:00am - 5:00pm
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php20,000 (Upon Registration)

HENRY BUTCHER
Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers
HENRY BUTCHER & CO. (PHILS.), INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jollliand Building, 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: (63-2)852-2910*11 / 833-2749 Fax: (63-2)831-9507
E-mail: hbphils@philonline.com
www.henrybutcher.com

Sweden is bullish at EU helm

STOCKHOLM—It's not always pretty, but after decades in the fitting room, Europe is at last all dressed up and ready to go.

So at least says Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, who became the European Union's top diplomat this month when her country assumed the EU presidency and who sees the Old Continent coming of age anew as it pursues its current goals.

"Now, it is clear that there is a common political will in the European Union," Lindh said in an interview in her office here. "You now have everything formal in place" for the European Union to induct eastern European states and become a genuinely pan-European institution.

At the same time, and for the first time, Europe is beginning ever so gingerly to flex a collective military muscle as it continues to work on plans for an autonomous defense "identity," a project encouraged by Sweden.

"The idea behind it is really to get the European Union more involved in crisis management so Europe can prevent and manage military conflicts," Lindh said. "I think that is very important for Europe. If Europe had had that capacity 10 years ago, maybe there wouldn't have been a Balkan War."

And as Europe's political and military thinking continues to gel, so too are most EU member states well along in forging uniform fiscal and monetary policies that will be needed to keep the machine financially lubricated in the long run.

Lindh lamented that Sweden had not yet signed up for full participation in the new common European currency, the euro and argued the future for her country and all present and future EU members lay in adopting the euro.

"I want Sweden to join the euro," Lindh said. "I think it's a political commitment, I think being a member of the Union that it's better to be a 100-percent member.

"Economically, of course, I do think it's important for a small country, especially when we will have times where we can foresee economic problems."

Much of the progress that has been made in building the EU was codified at the EU summit last month in the French Riviera city of Nice, a meeting criticized by many as messy and middling at best but that Lindh claimed will eventually be appreciated as a major achievement.

"I think when the French presidency is judged by history it will be a positive assessment because they did the most important thing—they got an agreement which made it possible to continue the enlargement process," she said.

Lindh rejected fears heard both inside and outside the European Union that tighter integration will result in—or happen only as consequence of—forfeited national sovereignty and the erosion of existing institutions, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"The roles of the EU and of Nato are two separate ones," she said.

"In crisis management, they might be coordinated on a lot of occasions. But the EU will not try to take over the role of Nato when it comes to defense and defense issues, the real core of Nato." *AFP*

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8970808 (Trunk) Fax 974808
PASAY ROAD, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8442417 ☎ 8432771 ☎ 8432700 Fax 8925570
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎ 912 9008 11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P200 per column centimeter P55 per line
(All prices exclusive of R-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Lic. PT/Reflex 367-7155

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/DESIGN

We Build Houses 4178012

HEALTH/FITNESS

Lose/Gain Weight 8951381

MASSAGE

ASK GEORGE M/F 24 HRS SERVICES 8621874 100% HOSME

EXOTIC STYLE M 4376220

H-H-M-S MALE 7314018

Male #16 Palanan 7320659

MASSAGE (0919)433-3191 GEM

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

REFLEXOLOGY

Scorpion Massg 4372542

8180131/09197325729 M/F

D' Millenium Reflex Home/Hotel Srvcs 9347633

Reflex Carla 7164898

ReflexRyan 09179760380

TUTORIAL LESSONS

Excellent Tutor 821-7963

Flower Arr Wshp 910-0942

LALUZ 5268216/5268270

MISCELLANEOUS

FACIAL SKINCARE
Training/ Workshop
Call:895-6031 L2011

Sales/Service
Kew/Wap Alto
High pressure cleaner
Vacuum Cleaner
9830899 ; 9368089

HOUSEHOLD

FLOOR SANDING

JL Flr Sanding 4156731

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Affordable Maids 872-0265

BEST MAIDS w/NBI 853-3504

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

LOW RATE MAID 9287096

Maids Boy Driver 9270418

MAIDS w/CLEAR 807-5788

MAIDS 9124701 9124705

PROV'L & CITY A/A MAIDS 8735271

Prov'l All Around Maids Driver H'Boy w/NBI 8712372 • 8712372

RELIABLE MAID YAYA 7418078

LIPAT BAHAY

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

9206784/4540520

CLOSED ALUM VAN 8212970

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

•LBahay7251645/7441698•

LIPAT AGAD 5220956

•LIPAT•731-6833

CARPET CLEANING

Carpet/Sofa Clean 8207068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

Ayala Greenfields P10T/m² 372-0888 / 372-0825

KALOOCAN

W/Off Ext 2TB 2CGAR 4553763

MAKATI

**Magallanes V P13M Pls. Call 535-8356

MANILA

**Malate Nr Vito Cruz P5M 2Stry 3br 2cg 413-4411

RIZAL

3BR 214m² 2car grge San Jose Rodriguez 649-2298

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

VARIOUS AREAS

CONDO MKTI.
ROCKWELL
5M, 7M, 12M & up
Call Lito 800-4748
0917-3752258

AYALA
Greenfields
Primo View Lots 8T/sqm
Lito 800-4748
0917-3752258

AYALA
Westgrove
Sta. Rosa 7T/350sqm & up
0917-3752258

AYALA
Ferndale-QC
H&L 5M & up
800-4748/0917-3752258

QUEZON CITY

Nr Rbinson,SMFview 260m² only P980T 'cheap'4140418

7G Tolentino NSEV Dil.Q. City w/4bedroom 9320402 /0915-8143767 Lei Castillo

Bnew TSora 3.5M neg 4BR 4TB 1CG Cesar 453-4920

Loyola Grand Villas LA401 sqm FA 460sqm 435-0005 / 426-0835

Mira Nila QC 5br 5t&b 3stry 354m²FA 6.9M 928-9714 / 927-9609

•Pao St Sta Mesa Hts• 267m² P7.5M 4110381

Warehouse and Office w/3 Phase Lot 179 De Leon St., Dil. Quezon City Lei Castillo •9320402 /0915-8143767•

PROVINCIAL

Camella Barcelona Cavite • 874-1301 873-9956 •

LAGUNA BEL AIR 3 2,300 Units Ready 4 Sale Grab corner Lots Now. Luis 0917-8113239; 1388-89755

Over Looking Taal LotsH&L 938-7619/(0918) 505-8604

OTHER AREAS

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3• LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg Joann 912-5775/8678942

LOT

MAKATI

200m²@15,000 9129974/6013

MANILA

**Sta Cruz 270m² cor 7.5M Nr Laguna Hse 413-4411

**UST For Dormitory 900m² Nr. Gelinos VLot 413-4411

PASIG

**Pasig Comm'l Lot Nr Shaw 924 & 1100 P30T/m² 7232391

QUEZON CITY

NEW MANILA 2000 sqm 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

RIZAL

Antipolo 530m² V/L w/old Hse & fruit trees 6435313

Res V/L Beverly Hills Antipolo 600m² 1.6M 6435313

SAN JUAN

**G'hills East V/Lot 900sqm P35/m² 723-2391

**Lit Baguio SJ 450m² Com/Res'l Use 7232391

Luna Mencias nr Araulo 715M VL 29Th/m² 4157979

North G'hills Cor 1000 6br Den Spool P39M 7232391

PROVINCIAL

• Tagaytay 4 Lots • Near Rotonda 8741301

Roxas City 189m² 533-0602

**Sherwood Cavite 345m² Bll L3 Tel 723-2391

**Tagaytay 2Adj Lots 780 & 805m² 723-2391

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

**Cityland Pasong Tamo Studio P880T 535-8356

Manhattan Square 2br FF Salcedo Vill 633-1692

Salcedo Park II 224sqm 4BR 3Car P12.5M 4121825

SALCEDO 3BR 2CG 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

SALCEDO P. LANE 3BR 135sqm 5.5M Fur 9155177

MANILA

**Pasay FA158m² New 5.5M Nr Zamora 4br 413-4411

NrlaSalle 3sty3BR T899-2148

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MANDALUYONG

**Pioneer Highlands Stdio 31m² P2M 671-4421

**Pioneer Highlands 2br 1cg P3.3M 671-4421

**Wack Twin 3br FF 1br Condo 7232391

PASIG

715m² Luna Mencias nr. Araulo P29T/m² 4157979

QUEZON CITY

**Blueridge Bnew Nr C5 3br 2tb P6.5M 671-4421

CubaoCondoP1.3M
"EZ"Terms nego discounts 9120647 9132224 4381480

Narra Hts Mariposa 6.5M 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

Nr. Visayas/QC Hall P2M 2BR Attic 2TB 24-Hr Sec Nice 454-8562/454-8528

Rent/Sale Mariposa Town House 3br 3tb 724-8729

Rush! WSide NMla 9155177 2BR 5.0M 3BR 6.9M

VL nr SM Fairview P4,500 /M² RUSH 700m² 4157979

SAN JUAN

**G'hills Condo 1br FA58 P3M 723-2391

**G'hills Condo 3br P5.5M w/ Huge Blcony 7232391

**G'hills Ofc Condo 70m² w/ Parking FFur P32M 7232391

**G'Hills Twnhse 3br FA180 2car Grg 7232391 P6.8M

**G'Hils Annapolis Condo 3br P9M 7232391

Gmhills OB Club Filipino 40sqm + Parking F-Furn P1.8M or Rent P12T/mo. 633-7601-03

MEMORIAL LOT

HERITAGE PARK MAKATI Soon to Open 671-4421

Loy Mkna Lot 8386645/52

FACTORY/WHSE

40% lower than Zonal
Valenzuela 500m²-2Has.
Novaliches 2000-1Ha.
Meycauayan 1000m²-3Has.
Sta Maria 5000m²-14Has.
Guiguinto 2600m²-12Has.
8671083 Bobby Sy 8671084

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

4402-B Dayap St. Palanan Makati Call 834-0580 / 043-7780169

MANILA

MAGALLANES BUNG 3BR 1DN NWLY RENOV POOL 7337623-03 OFF HRS.

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Salcedo VP Lane 2BR P30T 641-9346 • 915-5177

MANILA

NrlaSalle 3sty3BR T899-2148

QUEZON CITY

2sty Thse 2BR2TB West Riverside St. SFDM CALL 3725701/8962546 P10T

Ayala WSide NMla 2-3BR P25T 641-9346 • 915-5177

SAN JUAN

STATE CENTER ORTIGAS 86 SQM ++ OFC#242-1521

**G'Hills Sev Studio 3br P18-40T 7232391

ROOM & BOARD

Malate nr DLSU Ldy 5217279

BEDSPACE

P975/mo. AIRCON
Cubao 454-4005; 911-3361

LADIES MAKATI 8963993

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.6 Monthly QC=3730239/40 Las Pinas=5433191 & 9895 Makati=8976644 to 46 LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

Fast Loan R/Estate & Car Financing Avail 4154936

BUSINESS RENTAL

P1,800/mo. Stalls
MALATE T-400-6420 / 23

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
Initial DP: P15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P8,000
FORTE REALTY
2/F Princess Bldg. Esteban St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
810-8019 873-0787
810-7183 872-7603
810-6787 871-8318
810-7297
Welcome Brokers & Agents

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

P5,500/mo. Office
Cubao 454-4005; 911-3361

**Citibank Ctr Paseo Mktl Sale/Rent 200m² 535-8356

MALATE G/F OFF. 5268048

Mkt Ofc G/F 100m² 6713876

Off Avenida Nr Raon 7356516

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

May 2000 Civic 1.5 A/T LXI 5K P540K 719-4311

HYUNDAI

'94 Grace 215T 7313492

'97 Grace 268T 731-3492

KIA

'96 Besta 240T 7313492

MITSUBISHI

89 GL Lancer A/C P125T Neg 640-8448 0917-8349005

96 Mitsubishi Pajero Green •874-1301 873-9956•

TOYOTA

**93 Corolla GlI 1St Owner 79 Crown 35T 725-4384

BOATS

LCT 750 DWT price 10M neg Call 7222044/7210789

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

CARS•VANS•8978113•8955888 BUS•CSTER•BRIDAL•8969956

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300 Versa Van 578-8917

MB100 Hi-Ace Starex 9483535

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

Sunflower Transport Starex, L300, Coaster Bus Cars 687-7396 631-3496

TOYCO Trans Self drive CARS VANS 8006595

UDrive w/drivr Cars/L300/ MB/4x4/Bus 8908667-69

•Car;Vans4535288;9296250

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8900215

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

1.5% w/o taking car OR/CR R/EstateLoan LO%4154936

1.6 Monthly QC=3730239/40 Las Pinas=5433191 & 9895 Makati=8976644 to 46 LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

mazda NISSAN HONDA

STEERING FIXES
LEAKS HARD-STEERING
etc.3 months guaranteed work
RUBBERVOLT
AUTO SERVICING CENTER
115 Mindanao Ave., Quezon City
Tel # 929-1514 Credit Cards Honored

CGFNS & U.S. LICENSED NURSES

Do you want to avail of an **Immigrant Visa Petition for Free?**
WE DARE YOU...
COME & COMPARE
On

WHEN:	March 1 and 2, 2001 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	March 04, 2001 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
WHERE:	Century Park Hotel 1004 Malate Manila	Cebu Midtown Hotel Osmeña St. Cebu

The **Directors** of **ATLANTIC HEALTH SYSTEM** (Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown, Overlook Hospital in Summit, Mountainside Hospital in Montclair, and the General Hospital Center at Passaic in Passaic) New Jersey, U.S.A. will hire Nurses in all Specialty areas.

NURSES !

Don't Deal Yourself a Joker When you can Have an Ace

A ♣ The GOOD things we offer
- Free Processing of Immigrant Visa Petition
- Free Agency Fee
- Free Airfare (Manila to U.S.A.)

A ♦ BETTER Benefits Package
- Paid Vacation/ Sick Leave
- Paid Insurance

A ♥ the BEST
- Competitive Salaries
- Excellent Benefits and Incentives
- Outstanding Working Condition
- Continuing Education

** Ms. Amelia J. Olegario from New Jersey will be on hand to assist the Hospital Directors*

Please bring:

Typewritten Resumé and Original documents (CGFNS Certificate, Toefl, TSE, ICHP, College Diploma, High School Diploma, Birth Certificate, Marriage Contract if married, Transcript of Records, Related Learning Experience, PRC Certificate, Board Rating, PRC ID and employment Certificate with area of exposure.)

For more information: Please contact **Ms. Elsie T. dela Cura** of **EA Int'l. Placement** Rm. 203-204 Aurora Plaza Bldg., J. Bocobo cor. Arquiza Sts., Ermita, Manila, Telephone 5266431 or 5264642, 5258756.

Or EA Branch Office in Bacolod City Tel. 034 4338971 or 034 4343009

FOR SALE

6,695 sq.m. corner lot with warehouse type buildings along Gen. Tirona, Balintawak, Caloocan City (bounded by 4 streets) approximately 500 meters away from EDSA.

Contact: Mrs. Laurel - 365-8757; Mrs. P. Santos - 361-1308, 361-1261

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Genset for Sale 450 KVA Caterpillar 220-440V 3Phase Call 453-8036 / 79

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard P25T & P30T All Marble Top New 781-9453

B.Table B'new w/accessories •(02)8014494/8020566•

Imported Billiard, P-Pong, Foosball, Hockey Tables Call 367-3784 to 88

Imported Billiards Complete Acc Free Delivery & Install'n 8618714 to 16; 8613123

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

H.S./COLLEGE G Lopez 7137284

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Dental Tech 4158315 L105

FAMILY DRIVER live in 28-30 P5T NBI single NO BISYO 8972284/8978933

Ofc Staff 9134470 HARVE

FEMALE

• WANTED •
SECRETARY w/ Accounting Background Bring Bio-data 8101 Pearl Drive Ortigas Cntr Pasig City

DOMESTIC HELPER Family Nurse 303-9476/5623962

MAIDS Direct Hire 7284971

Office Staff 913-4470 Maan

WANTED
EXPD. HAIRDRESSER & MANICURIST T7250882/ 4155507 look for CATHY

MALE/FEMALE

ACCTG. CLERK - Female, comp. lit., fluent in English
DRIVER - Male, w/driver's lic.
Call Shin Han Kuk Grocery (Mkti)@897-2836/34

CARE GIVER T-5280730

CHEF For MACAO
7yrs exp in Italian Cuisine. Send a copy of your Curriculum Vitae w work exp, Criminal Record & Contact no.@ 00853751327

Computers US$1000/mo.8951381

Cook 6, Yaya 4, HGirl 2.5, Laba 3, Sec. M'Wife Tel:8510250

Credit Investigator for Bulacan Co. 8671083/84

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Experience for Secretary Preferably Living near San Juan Call 724-6735 / 7057

•Ofc Staff 9134470 Hazz

Off Staff 9134470 Mr. Co

Office Staff 913-4470 Arnel

OFFICE STAFF PLS. CALL 7366660 LOOK FOR MS. RHEA

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION Assistance provide employers to qualified CAREGIVER/ NANNY in Canada and Assistance to Independent Applicants and Tourists Visa Call Andy or Max Anchela 725-7185

AUCTION SALE

Cordero Pawnshop New Farmers Plaza QC 137 CPalanca Qpo Cordero-Santos Pawnshop 2494 TaftAve Pasay Cordero South Pawnshop 2673 South Ave Mkt Cordero SC Pawnshop 17A Zamora St SFDMQC Emcco Bldg. MEYC Bul Auctions Sale on all expired loan from 6/1 /00-8/30/00 on Jan. 27,01 at Respective locations

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW Cash/Consign 3738821

UR OWN WATER REFILL STATION
Start @ 300T cash/terms
Call Zecra Ent. 912-5750 / 438-5134
Dealers Welcome

CONDENSED MILK 250KGS BURGER PATTY TEL 2870022

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN Term Must be Employed 2929084

RTW Cash/Term 7289681

RTW P20 up Call 723-2959

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of **SOL B. RICO** was extrajudicially settled with waiver of rights among her heirs as per Doc. 441; Page 90; Book I; Series of 2000. Atty. Fe H. Padilla of Pasay City.
(PDI-January 17, 24 & 31, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

S2 License No. 13300P00-491 belonging to Liezl T. Canonigo M.D. was lost. (PDI-1/17/01)

PHILIMARE Inc.

MARLOW NAVIGATION CO. LTD.

Accreditation No. 20511-9

AVAILABLE OPENINGS FOR FEBRUARY-MARCH

CHEMICAL PRODUCT TANKERS
6,500-14,000 GRT/B&W-MAK Engines

2nd Officer	USD 1,900 - 2,150
2nd Engineer	2,600-2,750

CONTAINER VESSELS
250-600 TEUS/Duetz-MAK-B&W Engines

Chief Officer	USD 2,310-2,520
2nd Officer	1,650-1,800
2nd Engineer	2,310-2,520

Salaries subject to experience and performane history.

In-house training and assistance are provided.

Apply at:

PHILIMARE INC.
5th Floor, PCIBank Building, Plaza Sta. Cruz, Manila

"MAG-INGAT SA MGA ILLEGAL RECRUITERS
No fees to be collected
This Ad is approved by POEA.

FOOD WORKERS & CAREGIVERS NEEDED ABROAD!

INCREASE YOUR CHANCES TO WORK ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD BY TAKING THE

FOOD SAFETY TRAINING SEMINAR!!!

IN ENGLISH
Tuition fee only P3000.- Valuable handouts and a certificate issued!

CANADIAN TRAINING SPECIALIST
& NORTH AMERICAN STANDARDS

Hallmark Career Enhancement (T.C.)

REGISTRATION OFFICE:
Unit #907- Vicente Madrigal Building
6793 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 6PM MONDAY-FRIDAY

For further information call: **891 5602 and 891 5632**

☞ FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Our company is one of the very competitive organization in the industry, and we need various personnel to fill in the different positions.

If you are the right person we are looking for, read on...

❶ **JR. COMPTROLLER**
- Graduate of 4 to 5 years Accounting courses, preferably a CPA
- Single, female, 21 to 30 years old.
- 1 to 2 years experience in auditing and bookkeeping, preferably in the recruitment of OFWs industry.
- Articulate and good in oral and written English
- Willing to work on extended time
- Computer literate and proficient in the preparation of Spread Sheets

❷ **ACCOUNTING CLERK**
- Graduate of 4 to 5 years Accounting courses
- Single, male or female, 21 to 30 years old
- 1 to 2 years experience in bookkeeping and monitoring of receivables
- Willing to work on extended time
- Computer literate and proficient in the preparation of Spread Sheets

❸ **ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK**
- Graduate of IT, MIS, Computer Science, MassComm, Marketing or Management
- Single, male or female, 21 to 30 years old
- 1 to 2 years experience in purchasing, inventory control and personnel
- Computer literate and proficient in MS Office

❹ **ASSISTANT TO THE OPERATIONS MANAGER**
- Graduate of Computer Science, MassComm, Marketing or Management
- Preferably with experience in coordinating the nitty gritty of the recruitment agency operations
- Single, male or female, 23 to 30 years old
- Computer literate with the ability to handle a group of staff
- Able to work under pressure
- Well-organized and posses a high common sense

❺ **MIS OFFICER**
- Graduate of Management Information Systems, Information Technology, Computer Science/Programming/Engineering
- Must possess average skills in oral and written English
- Able to disassemble/assemble CPUs, and
- Design simple special application programs such as payroll, inventory control, Special Accounts monitoring

Only short listed applicants are encouraged to apply. Handcarry your Comprehensive Resumé, Transcript of Records and 2 pcs. 2x2 pictures on or before 18 January 2001 to the following address.

SSC MULTISERVICES
c/o Elvie
2/F Katipunan Building, 95 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City (infront of PCSO)
Tel.: 781-0398, 781-0409, 743-7259, 712-3129
Fax: 781-0398
E-mail: ssc@i-next.net
Interview date will be on 19 January 2001 between 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) 📠 8974808
PASAY ROAD, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8442417 ☎ 8432771 ☎ 8432780 📠 8925578
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 📠 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 📠 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 📠 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 📠 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
P200 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

THE PEOPLE AND OFFICIALDOM OF ANTIQUE MOURN WITH DEEP SORROW THE DEMISE OF A GREAT LEADER AND AN ILLUSTRIOUS SON

JOSUE L. CADIAO

(1918 - 2001)

BOARD MEMBER, PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE 1946-1951
GOVERNOR, PROVINCE OF ANTIQUE 1956-1960; 1960-63
COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 1966-1972
COMMISSIONER, PHILIPPINE SUGAR COMMISSION 1978-1986
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SUGAR TRADING CORP. 1978-1988
PM, HAMTIK LODGE '76, SAN JOSE, ANTIQUE

HIS REMAINS LIE IN STATE AT THE CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS, ARANETA AVENUE, QUEZON CITY. NECROLOGICAL SERVICES WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2001 AT 7PM. HE WILL THEN BE FLOWN TO HIS BELOVED HOME PROVINCE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2001. INTERMENT WILL BE AT HIS HOMETOWN OF CULASI, ANTIQUE. DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

MARILYN CAJATOR HERRERA

Peacefully joined her Creator on January 14, 2001 at the age of 51.

Her husband **Antonio**; children **Miguel**, **Carlos** and **Aaronessa**; parents **Andres** and **Dolores**; sister **Imelda**; brother **Pedro**; brother-in-law **Reynaldo Briones**; sister-in-law **Rosanna**; mother-in-law **Primitiva**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers for the eternal repose of her soul and for her guidance through her final journey.

Her remains lie in state at the Della Strada Chapel on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City until 1:00 PM on January 17, 2001.

Thereafter, she will lie in state at the family mausoleum at the Eternal Memorial Park, San Sebastian, Tarlac City until the interment on Saturday, January 20, 2001 at 2:00 PM.

Josue Lacson Cadiao

Born August 29, 1918

Died in the grace of the Lord on January 15, 2001.

His loving wife **LOLITA**, daughters **LINDA**, **DELICIA**, **CYNTHIA**, **LOLITA**, **EVA**, **RHODORA**, **NANETTE** and **MA. JULITA**; sons-in-law, grandchildren and great granddaughter, relatives and friends request everyone to rejoice with us at his return to our Creator.

His remains lie in state at the Capitol Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Necrological services will be held on Friday, January 19, 2001. He will be flown to his beloved province of Antique on Saturday, January 20, 2001.

Interment will be at his hometown of Culasi at a date to be announced later.

Virginia Arboliras Arban

Apr. 24, 1918 -- Jan. 7, 2001

Our Nanay Viring gracefully made an exit in this world with a smile on her face. Seeing her go brought sadness to our family but knowing she has gone back to be with her Creator somehow ease our pain. During our hours of bereavement we drew strength from the sympathy of relatives and friends who comforted us and offered their prayers for her safe journey back home.

Our deepest thanks to all.

The Arban Family

The Family announces with deep sorrow the untimely demise at the age of 40 years of

DR. RAYMOND PACHECO PARAGAS

Municipal Health Officer
Guimba, Nueva Ecija

His loving wife **Gertrudes (Gigi) Gamalinda-Paragas**; children **Ray Gerard**, **Ray Gerick** and **Helen Grace**; parents **Dr.** and **Mrs. Cresencio Paragas**; father-in-law **Santos Gamalinda**; brothers, sister, sisters-, brother-in-law, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Body lies in state at his parents' residence in Ramos, Tarlac.

His remains will be cremated at 10:00 AM at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Caloocan City on Friday, January 19, 2001.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK PARAÑAQUE

Wish to announce its promo for
FAMILY ESTATES & MEMORIAL COURTS
15% downpayment, 0% interest 1 year to pay
Also available premium lawn lots

Please call Gilbert or Tina
8103594 8182083 8180785 8125679 8180689

Evergreen MEMORIAL GARDEN, INC. PASIG
Located near Valle Verde, Greenhills, Greenmeadows, Corinthian, Wack-Wack, Acropolis, Capitol 8, Greenwoods and Parkwoods
The one-stop, one-of a-kind memorial park features
LOW DOWN-PAYMENT
@ EASY INSTALLMENT PLAN
ARLINGTON EAST
The Garden Chapels
at CAPILLA SAN AEMILIANI
-NO MORE LONG PROCESSION-
C. Raymundo Ave., cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City
640-2145 OR 640-2975

LUISA
IRINEO ENRIQUEZ

Peacefully joined her Creator on January 10, 2001.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at Lemery, Batangas.

Mass will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2001, at 3:00 o'clock p.m. at the Lemery Parish Church

nent will be at Lemery Ca
, ery, immediately after the

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one. **WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS** and bank-to-bank payments

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES** OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON EAST
Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 715-1026 to 28 E-mail: arlington@hotmail.com
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 715-1025, 715-1031, 715-1027
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels. 346-2543, 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City Tels. 231-0721, 231-3102

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1268
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City. Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-6102, 741-5125, 741-5133 • Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
210 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812903, 2813034, 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
(045) 322-5247 ; (045) 888-2950

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calasdang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila. Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City. Tels. 825-1200, 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5660136, (0917) 5660145
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City. Tel. (074) 443-3337

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City
Tel. 895-1011 to 19
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal
Tels. 645-1855, 682-0200, 682-0210
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35, 714-0887, 714-0888
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City. Tels. 831-1204

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City
Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City. Tels. 852-8228, 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels. 749-3579, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
298 Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tels. 372-5084, 410-9206 / 07
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue. 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836

Former activists give advice to desperate mother

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

DEAR Readers,

Thank you so much for all the letters that we receive almost instantaneously on Wednesdays. We are sorry that we are not able to respond to all of them personally. Most of them give really valuable advice or suggestions that we are able to incorporate in our column. But this week, we have decided to feature two of these letters sent in response to our column on "esperate mother, activist daughter." They add the "experience dimension" of former activists and how they are living their lives right now. They may give the desperate mother some hope and consolation. So, I am giving way to their views in place of my regular feature. Happy reading!

Former activist, now father

Being now a father who has a daughter about to go to college and who is starting to ask questions about impeachment, rallies and demonstrations, I cannot help but identify with desperate mom's anxieties and worries. However, the other side of me, a former full-time activist, my heart goes to her activist daughter.

I remember the angry days of my soldier father when he realized that I, his son, was trying to bring down the establishment he was sworn and will die to protect. I tried telling my father that sending me to college was not a waste of money. I was being educated not only for the course but also about society beyond the four walls of the university.

My father and I had endless debates during mealtimes. I could still remember the tears of my mother and scowls from my older brothers. When we ran out of angry words, we drifted into a cold, chilly silence. I thought then, my father had given up on me. I was then at the threshold of a decision: drop out of school, go underground, or be semi-legal. I was barely home. I would drop off dirty clothes, grab a few winks, ask for money and be gone.

I was mistaken about my father. He was struggling, trying to resolve the conflict between the father and the son, between the soldier and the activist. He entered the military so he could go to school and he and my mother were working hard to send of us through college.

One day, we had a talk. He said I was a grown-up and a man capable of thinking for myself. He understood that as he is expected to do what is expected of him, I had to do what I thought best. As a man, I have to be responsible for the consequences of the things I do. It was then that we had an arrangement. It was up to me to pursue college or go full-time activist. I was an idealistic teen-ager so I went full-time as an activist but I still valued my father's words. Afterwards I went back to school, working to pay part of my expenses. I finished my four-year course in seven years and finished graduate school.

Two decades have passed. In a few years, the world will go full circle. I find the same free thinking stubborn streak in my daughter; I am now in my father's shoes. Unlike my father, I have the advantage of being his son. I am not sure I can do what my father did but I am sure I will be man enough to face the consequences. Send my letter to the desperate mother. Thank you.

Responsible Father

Sheltered activist

I am single and have no children of my own but I can identify with the daughter because when I was young, I also attended rallies. In my own way, I wanted to change the world. I was already in my last year in college so I finished my course. I was sheltered and brought to and from school in a car everyday of my life. So for me joining rallies, taking a bus or jeep was a big deal. I had a sister who did not understand my choices.

I almost gave my father a heart attack when I would attend meetings without expressed permission. One day, my mother and father came after me in one of these meetings. They did not shout or humiliate me. I am very grateful because my father was very gentle with me. He wanted to understand why. He gave me admonitions to be careful—who knows I could just disappear and they would not know how or where to find me.

Because of this, we had some sort of a compromise although never explicitly discussed. I never went into overnight meetings. Later on, as their trust grew, they allowed me to join conferences involving campus writers and editors where we stayed in a dormitory with other students. It is one of my cherished experiences of that phase in my life.

Yes, I agree my experience taught me a lot of things—to be less self-centered. There are others who are important than I. I must use my time and talents not just for myself but for others and for the country as well. I am just a small dot in the universe and to be able to change the world requires a miracle. But in my own small way, I can make a difference. If in your endeavors you succeed then, congratulations. Then try not to look too astonished, if you do. I am also a great believer in prayer. I pray for her and her daughter. Good Day!

Sheltered Activist

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

(The author is founder and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a full-service management consultancy firm offering consultancy, training and research services in human resource and organizational development. Comments and requests for advice on work-related problems may be sent to email ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax number 892-2902)*

Mentors give learning advantage

By Caela Farren

> As the business world becomes increasingly fast-paced and complex, the need for multiple mentors intensifies. The more you can learn from the experts around you, the better you will do in your career

ALL we need to succeed in our careers is to find that right person to mentor and coach us. Right? Yes and no. Yes, we do need mentors to coach us. But one mentor is no longer sufficient. Historically, we could succeed with one or two mentors in a lifetime. But with today's increasingly rapid pace of change and accelerated learning, we need multiple mentors to stay competitive in our work life.

Mentors—who may be older or younger than you—are those who know more about a certain area of expertise than you do. Mentoring is a learning and development partnership between a professional, with in-depth experience and knowledge in a specific area, and an apprentice seeking learning and coaching in the same area.

Finding mentors

Finding a mentor is up to you. Look around and determine who are the different people in your industry, organization, and profession you can turn to for extra coaching and support? Once you find someone you think can help you, look for ways you can help him/her as well. Mentor/protege relationships work best when they are two-way streets. Listen generously to what they need, and you will find it easier to ask them for what you need. Don't be a taker! Be a giver!

Today, mentors may be our juniors, our seniors, colleagues, or even people we have never met personally. The mentor-for-life relationship is a gift. However, many other kinds of mentors—wise advisors who know much more about an area than you do—abound. So, take a look at the list below. What mentors do you already have? What mentors might you find that would give you a distinct advantage in your on-going learning?

Types of mentors

- Technical Expert or Mentor in Your Profession

Your profession or business field is continuing to change and evolve. Finding someone you can learn something from is important. This person will help you stay current on the important changes in your profession as well as react to your ideas about the new practices and competencies that you need to master.

Do you have a mentor that will discuss the trends in the profession; practices that must be mastered; key players to get to know; new technology that will impact you in the future? What are the experiences and competencies that will best equip you for the future? Only a mentor in your profession or trade can play this coaching role.

- Industry Savvy Mentor

Your industry is also changing rapidly. Don't get so busy doing your job that you forget to pay attention to changes and trends in your industry. Do you have someone to turn to for building your industry savvy? Such a mentor can give you insight into trends in the industry—such as major competitors to follow; companies to watch that are "best in class;" breakthroughs that need to be made and breakdowns that are limiting the industry; journals to read; leaders to follow; and associations to join.

- Organization Savvy Mentor

Whether you're new or have long tenure in your organization, it continues to change. Do you know what's really happening in your organization? Although the vision and mission may be spelled out publicly, often how they are to be carried out on a day-to-day basis is not so clear.

Do you know how your work contributes to the mission and strategy of your organization? Do you know the pressing business needs? Values and style of the leaders? Can you see how changes in the organization such as mergers and acquisitions, competitors, or new leaders will impact your business unit and job? Find a mentor who you can talk to about these issues and don't be caught off guard as the organization changes while you're doing a great job.

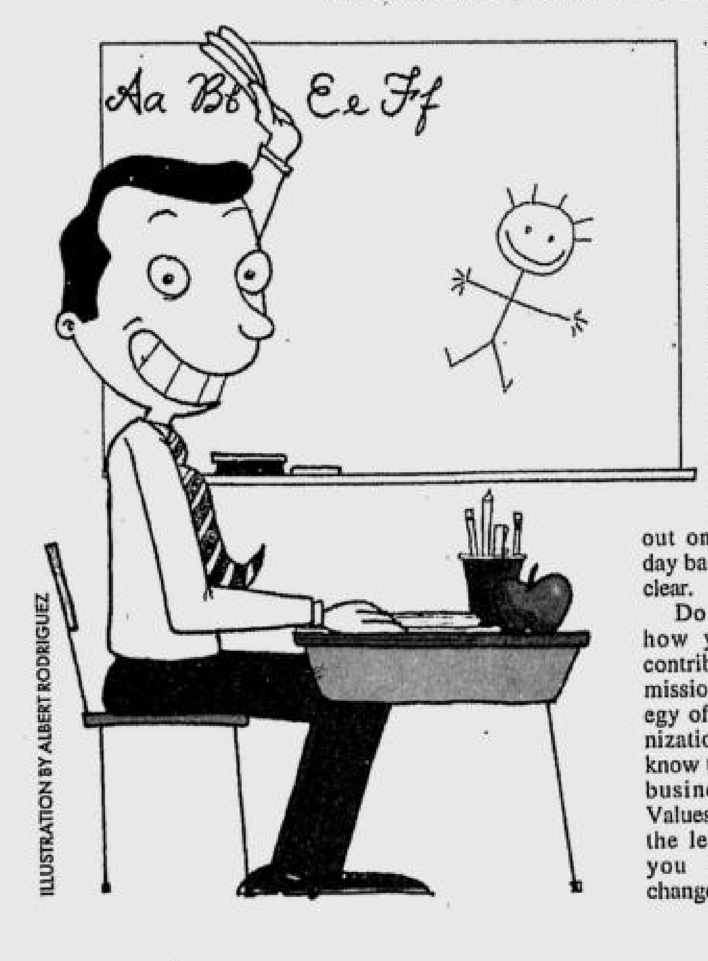


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Guide to norms

- Cultural Mentor

The informal values and practices that count are not always discussed clearly in every organization. Do you know what counts for success in your organization? What are the norms—the "dos" and "donts" of the organization? What are the informal as well as formal rules of the organization? What policies are critical and which are not? Who do you need to know and be visible to in order to have career opportunities and mobility? Find a mentor who can clue you in on the subtle nuances of organization politics.

- Customer Mentor

The more powerfully you serve your customers, the stronger your organization. Do you have someone you can count on to get you up to speed on the various customers you serve? What is the history with the customer? Who are the key players? What are their expectations? What have been the greatest successes or failures in the past? What are the basic interests that they want met and how can you best get regular feedback? Find someone with this customer history and you'll be surprised at your increased comfort and competence.

- Expediting Mentor

In every organization, there are people who know how to get things done quickly. They may be the best project managers, administrative assistants, or seasoned people in finance, purchasing, or the mailroom, etc. They know the " ins and outs" of project management as well as day-to-day expediting. Do you have a mentor who teaches you how to use the budgeting process? Purchasing? Billing procedures? The critical factors in making a presentation? Filing medical forms? Speeding up the proposal making process? Look for such a mentor. He or she will make a big difference in your life and work.

Virtual help

- Technology Mentor

None of us work or live without being surrounded by changing technology. And, no matter how good our systems are, there are breakdowns and new technologies to continue to learn and master. Do you have a mentor who is available to coach, sit at your side, answer questions, or advise you on new systems to learn or explore? This person can be inside your organization or outside, younger or older. What's important is that they are dedicated to your continual learning and easy-to-reach when you need them.

- Virtual Mentors

Thanks to our telecommunication links, we can talk with anyone in the world, in almost real time. It is possible to introduce yourself to anyone else that is connected—asking him or her to be your just-in-time mentor. Obviously, this is more "how" you create a relationship than the nature of the expertise they may bring to you. Any of the roles described above can occur online. The unusual aspect of this kind of mentor-protege relationship is that you may never actually meet them face-to-face, but you can avail yourself of their wisdom and coaching, when you most need it. Obviously, you need to build the relationship and be on the lookout for how you can support them—alerting them to articles, books, projects, and other areas that address their needs.

Long-term coach

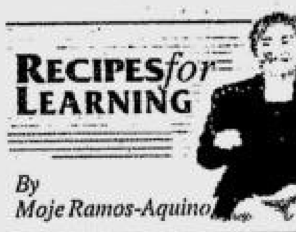
- Confidante Mentor

This is the role we most frequently think of when we think of a mentor. This person spots you, takes you under their wing, gives you coaching and advice, both personally and professionally. This is a relationship "made in heaven"—a gift. This relationship can last for years or a lifetime. As it develops, you will be able to talk through just about anything that comes up with this person. Any of the above relationships "could" develop into this long-term relationship. If you've been blessed with this kind of relationship, express your gratitude frequently. And, look for other people along the way that can play the same role.

As the business world becomes increasingly fast-paced and complex, the need for multiple mentors intensifies. The more you can learn from the experts around you, the better you will do in your career. Be on the lookout for people who can play a variety of mentoring roles. Ask for help. Ask people to coach you in certain ways. But, be sure that you never take their help and support for granted. Mentoring is a two-way street with mentors and mentorees each having responsibilities. Go out of your way for them and express your gratitude. Some of these relationships will be short-lived—but others may last for years.

(Reprinted with permission from www.careermag.com)

Lifeline to growth



RECIPES for LEARNING

By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

CALL it serendipity, I came across this workbook entitled "Planning Your Future" by George A. Ford and Gordon L. Lippitt. From the book, I would like to share with you these guidelines for planned personal growth and I quote:

- Personal goal setting is a process of systematically growing as persons while accomplishing specific purposes in life.
- Personal growth involves changes in attitudes and behaviors that are related to our self-concept and our needs.
- Personal growth is not always possible in all areas of our lives. Heredity or strong early environmental forces may hinder even desirable changes.
- Habit, attitude and opinion may deter change and growth because they reduce our receptiveness to alternative ways of thinking and acting.
- Defensive behavior patterns will deter change and growth by providing mechanism for the distortion of reality.
- Personal growth may be accelerated by attitudes and behaviors that are marked by openness, receptivity to new experience, curiosity, risk, eagerness, and lack of fear and experimentation.
- Because of our incredible complexity, our varying degrees of self-understanding, and the differences in our levels and kinds of aspirations, human beings are unique in their desire for, and experience of, personal growth.
- Generally, we tend to underestimate our ability and potential for accomplishment and personal growth.

Some guidelines or criteria for identifying personal goals and making them work are listed here. They make the task of goal setting more useful and satisfying.

- Your goals must be your own. You are likely to accomplish personal goals that you set for yourself than if you strive to achieve goals others want you to accomplish.
- Goals need to be clear, concrete and written down. The purpose of writing goals is to clarify and make them concrete for yourself. Writing and revising goals also forces you to make a commitment to yourself,
- Consider legality, morality and ethics in your goals. You should consider these issues before you commit yourself to a goal.
- Goals require realism and should be attainable. Having a goal is the first step to action, but if it is unrealistic and unattainable, it is not even a goal but pure fantasy and daydreaming. The most common hazard facing people beginning goal setting is over-ambition. Cut your list down to only three to six new goals to work on at one time.
- Specific time deadlines aid in accomplishment of goals. Specific target dates for completing a plan provides constant reinforcement and a sense of accomplishment that helps sustain your motivation.

Planning for growth

End of quote. So there! Personal life planning is planning for your growth as a person in the different aspects of your life. It involves your setting and prioritizing goals and objectives making sure that you achieve these by making action plans. It involves your desire to obtain or maintain something desirable and your willingness to act. A goal is your dream that, in time, starts and ends. It is not merely looking up the sky and wishing upon a star.

Your goals and objectives, though, change as your needs and circumstances change. They need to be reviewed and adjusted when something big or drastic happens in your life. You have initiated this process when you reviewed and evaluated your past life and the circumstances surrounding your life at the present. Remember your strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats or SWOT?

You put your SWOT together with your big personal goals for the next five years by drawing your lifeline. This is a good way of understanding your goals and objectives. You will be able to see your life moving across a continuum. You will also discover that all through your life, you have really been setting, prioritizing and achieving your life goals and objectives. Your life is a continuous work in progress. It is actively moving towards your personal vision and mission. Your personal values and attitudes power it. You will observe that any change in your personal vision, mission, values and attitudes causes a change in your goals and objectives.

Lifeline

Try it. Get a clean sheet of paper and pen or pencil. Setting the paper crosswise, let the left edge of the page represent the beginning of your life and the right edge of the page represent the end of your life. No matter how old you are, just draw one line across the paper. Then, place an x to indicate where you are right now. You may use different color pens or pencils to the next steps and to better depict the color and drama in your life. You may also use symbols, diagrams, drawings and other visual representations to depict those important moments in your life.

Before the x mark or the line to the left of the x, is your past life from age one to your age now. Mark on this part of your lifeline the significant events in your past life. This should include your family life, e.g., your original and new family, your significant achievement as a son or daughter, father or mother, husband or wife; your spiritual life; your physical health; your professional life, e.g. your work, job, career; your school life; your relationships; your lovelife; your personal finance or fortune; and others.

You might want to ask your mother or father or somebody in the know what the newspaper headline was when you were born or what specific activity and feelings accompanied your birth. Write this information at the very start of your lifeline. Interesting, huh?

Likewise, while you're at it, you might want to also recall and take note of your feelings, emotional state, frustrations, anger, happiness, fulfillment, anxieties and fears when all those significant events in your life happened.

Then, the other half of your lifeline, the part after the x mark to your right, represents the coming five years of your life. At the very end of the line, jot down your personal vision, mission and values. Mark on this part of your lifeline your three to six big personal goals on the estimated time of their completion.

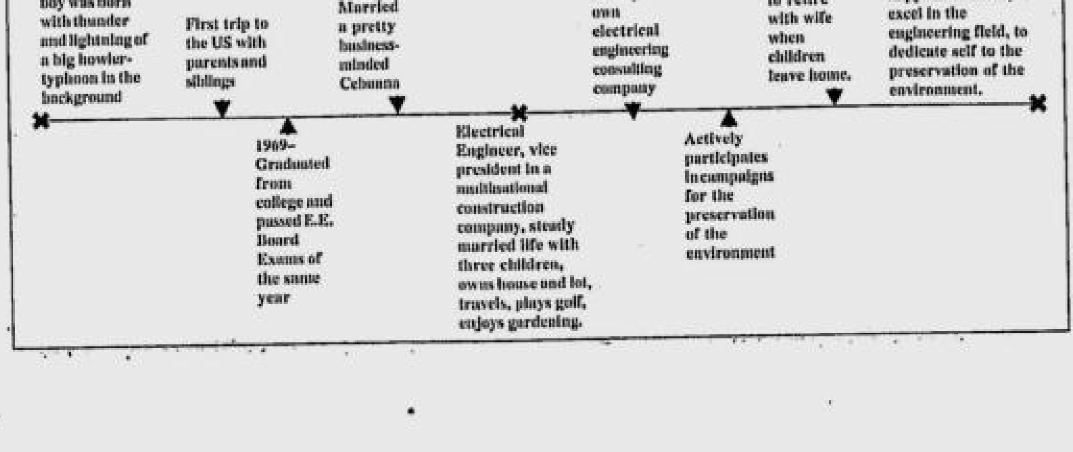
Perspective

Now, hold your lifeline a little far from you to enable you to see its entirety. Why did you draw the line in this way? Why did you put the marks where you did? Compare your lifeline with those of your planning team and learning buddies. What have you discovered about yourself? How uniquely individual and different are you from your buddies? How similar are you and your buddies and in what aspects?

What do your goals represent? Are they a continuation of what you have started in the past? Are they responsive to your needs? Did you take into consideration your needs in the areas of affection, duty, expertness, independence, leadership, parenthood, pleasure, power, prestige, security, self-realization, service, wealth, spiritual, health? Will they bring about significant changes in your life and help you come closer to your vision of your ideal future? How do they make you feel?

Getting more and more excited about life? Let's get together again next Wednesday for the continuation of our Workshop on Setting Goals, Objectives and Action Plans.

(Send feeback to moje.ramos@aquino.zzn.com*)*


A bouncy baby boy was born with thunder and lightning of a big howler-typhoon in the background
First trip to the US with parents and siblings
1969– Graduated from college and passed E.E. Board Exams of the same year
Married a pretty business-minded Cebuana
Electrical Engineer, vice president in a multinational construction company, steady married life with three children, owns house and lot, travels, plays golf, enjoys gardening.
Sets up own electrical engineering consulting company
Actively participates in campaigns for the preservation of the environment
Builds a small cozy chalet to retire with wife when children leave home.
To enjoy life with a fine family, to be hapy and content, to excel in the engineering field, to dedicate self to the preservation of the environment.

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE *at* WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

The man who made TV reporting move fast forward

By CECILE G. GARCIA

CAREER*Tales*

THE MAN who made the heart of television reporting beat faster has a passion for another. It is no secret that ever since Mike Enriquez anchored Saksi, a news program on GMA, his fast (but intelligible) and lively delivery of the news forever changed the pace of TV reporting in the country.

However, regardless of triumphs and successes in the television and executive world, Mike remains a radio broadcaster at heart. Radio is his biggest passion and his 31-year-old love affair with the medium is proof of this.

Accidental career

"I am familiar with all aspects of radio," says Mike. "I've been news and program director, writer, disc jockey, name it." His career in broadcasting began willy-nilly in 1969 when he became a staff announcer of the Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC). "It was an accident, pure and simple," Mike recounts. "I was visiting a friend at MBC where he was an announcer. He introduced me to the station manager who asked me to audition. I didn't even know they were in need of announcers." While still in 2nd year college at De La Salle (he finished Liberal Arts-Commerce, a five-year course), Mike embarked on a radio career, which according to him, must have been God's design all along—it must have been fated.

TV, however, did not seem to be part of the deal. "It was nowhere in my career path," declares the co-anchor of the very popular early evening TV newscast Saksi (Mike aslo hosts Saksi's radio counterpart on GMA's DZBB every morning from Monday to Friday.) As with radio, Mike's television career was seemingly a whim of fate.

"In 1995, GMA wanted to mount a coverage of the elections with the pacing of radio, that is, fast," relates Mike. "They needed a tandem—male and female—to host it." During one of the brainstorming sessions, it was suggested that they try out Mike, who, after all, had a background in radio broadcasting. "I teamed up with Karen Davila. It was my first time on TV. Of course, I was nervous. But the bosses must have been pleased because I was again asked to host the next day's coverage."

ENRIQUEZ hosts Saksi, both on TV and radio.

TV programs

Saksi was apparently an offshoot of Mike's initial success on TV. Imbestigador, a candid investigative reportage, which was launched in February last year, further highlights his talent for hosting and ability to relate to an audience. "These programs are a product of study and research. In both, the host actively participates," Mike points out. In Saksi, for instance, he and co-host Vicky Morales are not mere talking heads. Instead of just reading off a script, they improvise and ad lib along the way. Mike says the language, expressions and nuances are very much their own.

Despite the lure of the boob tube, "if I had to choose, I would very easily choose radio," says the veteran broadcaster. "Radio is more stimulating. It continues to fascinate, amaze and challenge me." With radio, he adds, results are immediately transparent. Knowing people listen more than they watch is decidedly reassuring. "Radio is a companion and you are, in effect, providing listeners companionship," avers Mike.

Saksi on radio obviously achieves this purpose. The two-hour program features hard news, sports news, interviews, commentary, traffic and weather reports. "It's early morning drive-time radio. We inform people. We wake them up and keep them moving," volunteers Mike, who remains smitten with the contraption which with the advent of TV everybody said would fade and die.

Professional

"But radio is here to stay," contends Mike. "There is simply no substitute for it." What he finds most stimulating about the medium though, is that "at the very least, I'm being part of the people's lives." This is one reason why he unfailingly shows up at 5:30 every morning to prepare for Saksi, which airs at six. Very upbeat, he adds, "I have a staff of thoroughly competent, professional and enthusiastic people who help me put the show together."

According to Mike, time management is a real and constant concern. His job entails long hours and schedules are sometimes erratic and unpredictable. Even his wife of 24 years has had to adjust and adapt (the couple are childless, incidentally). "I'm like a policeman in the sense that I don't know what will happen during the day," he says. Of course, there are fixed patterns, which set the tone of the day for Mike who remarks, "Sometimes it becomes routine." But it nonetheless productive and in any case, what is probably routine for him would be exciting for less jaded mortals like us.

A typical day for the exec/broadcaster consists of doing his early morning show and then attending to his duties as an executive. In the afternoon, he puts aside all management matters to do a live telecast of channel 7's top-rated Saksi (with Vicky).

Real career

"But my real career is behind the camera," he says. "I am blessed because I have the advantage of being on both sides. However, I have to think like a businessman and a journalist whose minds don't always travel along the same path." Still, his position does give him an edge—a broader perspective and consequently, a better understanding of the dynamics between management and personnel.

It is not common knowledge that radio and TV personality Mike Enriquez is primarily an executive. As president of RGMA Network, a subsidiary of GMA, he is in charge of the network's provincial radio and television operations. Mike also serves as senior vice-president for radio of GMA Network. Prior to joining the company five years ago, he was vice president and member of the board of directors of Radio Mindanao Network. At one time, Mike was general manager of FBS Network, which operated both AM and FM stations.

In truth, Mike finds his job as an executive more fulfilling. Not that being a broadcaster is less so. "There are degrees of fulfillment," he clarifies. "I say it's more gratifying being on the management side because it allows me to do more for my staff. I can take care of people." He maintains an easy companionable relationship with his staff, by the way. Mike believes in an open-door policy, literally meaning, he keeps the door to his private office open all the time so that personnel may come and go without feeling intimidated or put-off.

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

ENRIQUEZ finds his radio career more stimulating.

Normally, at this time of year, Mike would be visiting RGMA's various provincial radio stations of which there are now 32 (28 more are coming up). "But I have to be around for the impeachment trial," explains Mike, who alternates with Jessica Soho and Vicky Morales in anchoring the coverage. Special coverages like this are only a small part of his job. "On the other side, I manage people and balance resources, which include human resources. With my bosses, I talk not so much of deadlines as bottom lines," says the broadcaster. His tight schedule, by the way, also includes office conferences, meetings outside and tapings (every Tuesday for Imbestigador).

Privacy

The hectic pace he keeps would be enough to make the most devoted wife whine. As much as possible, however, Mike spends quality time with his spouse and tries to keep his private life just that, private. The fact is, he cherishes and zealously guards his privacy. Says he, "one disadvantage of being a familiar face (on TV) is you run the risk of losing some of your privacy. In the beginning, it was good for the ego. But now I have to deal with this little problem constantly."

Is it worth it? "Yes, it is," Mike assures, "because I'm having fun. I love my work, which I don't really treat as such. The moment I do, I might cease to love it and stop having fun." Obviously, he doesn't mind the pressure and the stress, the long hours and limited resources.

Although being on TV has changed his lifestyle, Mike has no regrets. Sure, he might be missing out on some of the mundane joys (like malling). But there's still plenty to take,pleasure in, such as reading (one of his passions), listening to his CD collection and playing golf with his buddies. "One of my biggest joys is travelling anywhere with my wife," says Mike. This is precious private time, which makes up for the waiting and the absences.

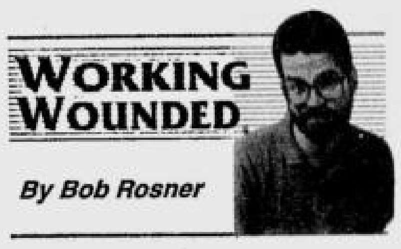
Despite the hard times we face, Mike believes "there is so much joy in life and we should not merely struggle with it." He feels life should be meaningful, lived to the fullest and enjoyed.

How do you deal with a boss who asks you to do something unethical?

I RECENTLY moved to a new job and my new boss has done a few things that make me uncomfortable. He's embellished sales figures for our division and made promises to potential customers that he knows are unrealistic. He then asked me to back him up. When I balked, he said, "That's business. Everybody does it." Am I being naive? Or is he being unethical?

Feeling smelly at work

WORKING WOUNDED



By Bob Rosner

Recently my family came home from the local animal shelter, proud parents of a dog and cat. Watching them play gave me insight on how to deal with your boss. Like all overindulgent parents, we immediately bought loads of doggie and kitty toys for them to play with. Neither animal "bit." But it was fascinating to see how they responded! The cat, ignoring the store-bought toys, occupied herself for hours batting around a wadded up piece of paper. The dog, meanwhile, lay bored and miserable-looking in the middle of a pile of bones. "It's amazing," my wife commented, "how a cat can make something out of nothing and a dog can make nothing out of something."

Well, in dealing with your boss you need to take the cat and dog routines two steps further. You need to figure out if there are times when you need to make nothing out of nothing and other times when you need to make something out of something. Here's what I mean:

1. How sensitive is your personal ethics meter? It's possible that your boss is right: exaggerations and promises are business as usual. Discuss his actions with others, both inside and outside your company, to see how they would rate them. It may be that they're nothing and that you should make nothing of them. On the other hand, if it turns out he is asking you to do something unethical, you'll want to do something about it. Try asking yourself the following questions.

2. Can you turn your dilemma into a trilemma? Right now you perceive that you have two options: do what your boss asked, or refuse. But it may be that there is a third, or even a fourth, option. For instance, could you "back up" your boss' statements in a way that is closer to the truth but still accomplishes your boss' goals?

3. Can you trade this assignment for another? Ask your boss to give you the toughest problem in the department if he'll relieve you of having to back him up. This might not help you sleep better at night, but at least it won't be your conscience that's keeping you awake.

Of course, there's also another solution. If this kind of challenge continues to "dog" you, you might want to find a new boss. It's a daunting prospect, I know. But at least it will prevent cat fights with this boss and keep you out of the ethical doghouse.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Which of the following options would you pursue if your current boss asked you to do something smelly at work?

* Say "yes" (always ready to lend a hand), 5 percent

* Talk it over with him (rather than taking a stand), 44 percent

* Say "no" (and risk getting canned), 50 percent

Janet in Bellevue won the prize for the best response: "I was once asked to lie to a customer. But I told my boss, if it was so easy for me to lie to her, how would you ever know if I was telling you the truth? He backed down. Sometimes you've just gotta take a stand."

(Send feeback to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph*)*

Going to work in dangerous times

By ERNIE O. CECILIA

RECENTLY, the metropolis was shattered literally and figuratively with a spate of bombings now attributed by police authorities to some rebel groups. The incidents affected business, the stock market, the image of the country, the psyche of the ordinary citizen and the families of the victims.

For us people at work who need to travel to and from the office every working day, this makes terror a reality every time we step out of our homes. But, shall we allow ourselves to be terrorized or immobilized? Of course not! But at the same time, we should not take it for granted or be paranoid.

Civilians have become innocent and unwilling victims of the recent bombings. It is unfortunate that the next bombing incident is almost impossible to predict. But, we ordinary citizens can do something to avoid the probability of being a victim.

How? Here are simple suggestions.

1. Be alert.

When you go out to public places, be alert. If you are walking in a busy street or building, know where you are and where you are going. Always keep in mind the purpose of your going there and stick to it.

Have an alert mind and sharp eyes to know what's happening around you. If there is a commotion, be quick to react and don't panic. Know the exits or alternate routes. Keep your wits and scamper to safety as fast as you can.

2. Be observant.

Observe the people you meet and try to notice their movements, bags or packages. Avoid walking alongside people with suspicious-looking packages. In fact, avoid walking beside suspicious-looking people.

If the bombers are just about to plan the bomb, they might feel some uneasiness or undue haste to move out of the place, unless they are so cold-blooded or have no remorse at all. Look people straight in the eye. Guilty minds show in the eyes.

3. Be agile.

Go with the flow of the traffic of commuters and don't get stalled in places where there is a high probability of being targets for bombings. When walking, walk fast and stop only when necessary.

When the government declares a red alert, do not go to public places needlessly or stay too long in any given place. If there is absolute necessity for you to go to the mall or supermarket or other places, get your job done and leave as fast as you can. Have a shopping list ready, know where to find them and get out of public places when you are through with your shopping.

4. Be vigilant.

When at home, be sure that you are aware of the goings-on in your immediate vicinity. Try to know your neighbors as much as you can. If you live near a commercial section, know the establishments within the area—business, government offices, etc.

Report to the authorities any suspicious activity or threat to public safety as soon as you learn about it.

5. Know the issues.

Be constantly aware of the political and security issues. Try to understand the protagonists in a political dispute and their ideologies. Listen to or read the news and opinions on these issues.

When the issues become so hot, the protagonists could be violent in their effort to further their aims. When this happens, be sure to be out of the line of sight or the crossfire.

6. Avoid crowded places.

Whenever possible, do not go to crowded places, especially when there is an imminent danger of bombings or violent reactions from any of the protagonists in the political issues.

Usually, crowded public places are the targets of bombings because they cause a tremendous impact on the psyche of the populace. If the bombers would want other parties to take the blame, they will inflict as much harm as they can.

7. Avoid usual bomb targets.

The usual bombing targets are major utilities, government offices and public places. The impact of a bombing is greater if lives are lost, property is damaged, business is paralyzed, government is rendered inutile, or the general populace is immobilized.

If you are working in establishments that are likely targets of bombings, remember that your workplace is not a fort. You have to be extremely vigilant to ensure that no one brings in the bomb. That is not just the job of the security guards.

If you have no business being in the areas that are likely targets of bombings, do not go there.

8. Tune in to the radio.

When you are outside of your home, tune in to the radio. If you are driving, listen to advisory on radio about traffic, calamities, etc. If you are riding a public conveyance, try to ask the driver to tune in to radio for this purpose.

Listening to the radio can give you the information you might need in case of an emergency. When you hear of bombings, by all means avoid places similar to where the bombings occurred.

Of course, you can use the cellular phone with text messaging to keep aware of events in your vicinity.

9. Stay home.

Perhaps, the home is the safest place to be to avoid being bombed, unless there is open war. Do not leave home the moment you hear of a series of bombing.

It is difficult to predict where the next bomb will explode. Unless you are a protagonist to a political dispute, your home is the best place to be. When there is a danger of bombings, do not leave home. Postpone your date, shopping, "malling," etc.

10. Pray.

No mortal can say that he will not be harmed at all. We can only take all the necessary precautions but there is an unseen hand that acts as the real protector of our lives. You don't need a cellular phone to contact Him. Just pray.

In the Old Testament, faithfulness to God brings success, while disobedience brings disaster. 1 Samuel 25:29 reminds us that "if anyone should attack you and try to kill you, the Lord, your God, will keep you safe, as someone guards a precious treasure.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

STAND PROUD
Witness the BEST of Filipino
and International talent in
Miss Saigon
CCP MAIN THEATER
Tuesday-Sunday 8pm
Saturday-Sunday 2pm, 8pm
TICKETS AT ALL TICKET WORLD OUTLETS 8915610
CCP BOX OFFICE 8323704
Groups of 20 or more: 4007844, 9221740 • 4332226

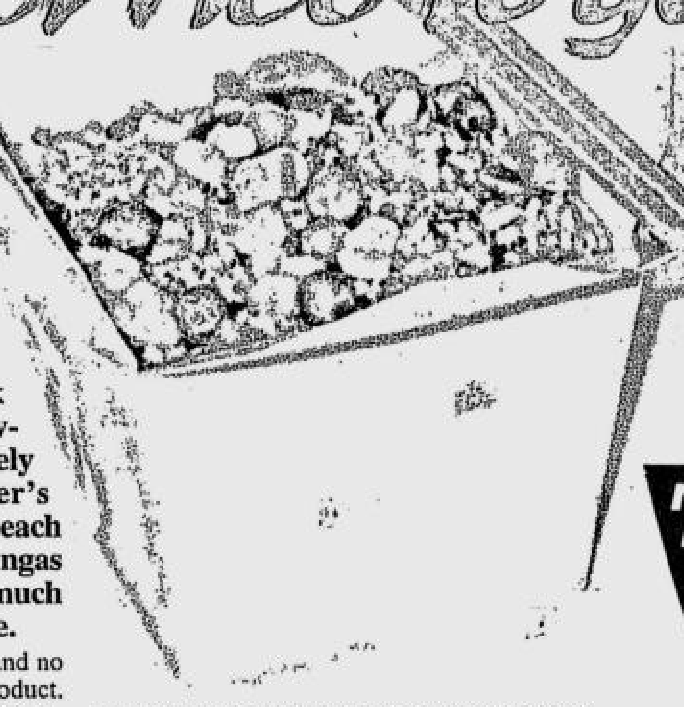
WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 17, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1
For feedback or suggestions ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

2bU! to be young • to be you • to be young • To be you! • young to be

A young man's gourmet rice to go



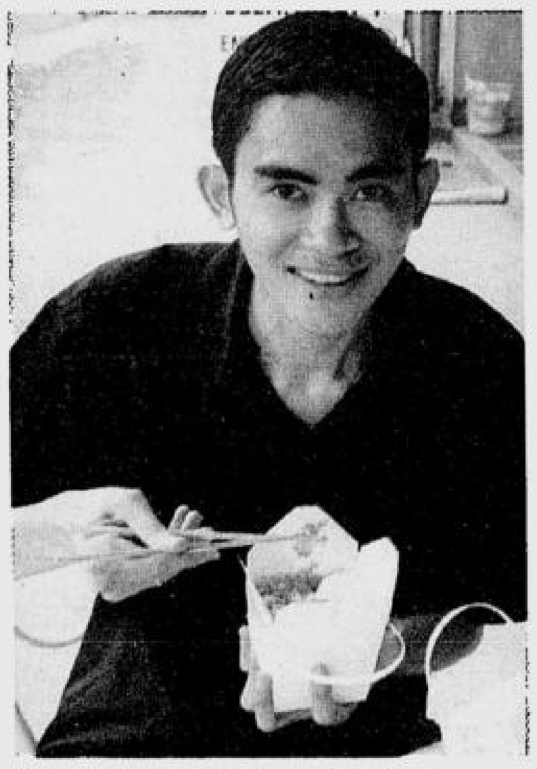
BY HAROLD JASON L. DOPLITO
2bU! Correspondent

NAME this product which comes in different flavors and easy-to-carry-packages. Think food, stalls and mass production. Before you trash this piece as another pearl shake article, think again. This time, 2bU! has discovered a new product that would surely hit it off with every food lover's tastebuds. Though it has yet to reach Manila, this innovation from Batangas would definitely spawn mutations much like that now irritable pearl shake.

Auster M. Perez calls it gourmet rice and no other name is more appropriate for this product. This fresh graduate from the College of St. Benilde has made quite an earning from his stall, one of the reasons he's considered one of the most outstanding in his batch. Consider this: After only three months of operation, his monthly earnings already rival that of an executive's salary. And it's all because of his gourmet rice. Whoever said the economy has been a major letdown for business owners will have to read on and find out. It seems that the food business knows no inflation and economic recession.

HEAVEN HITS THE STANDS. Chicken, Ham and Chorizo at its mouth-watering best

"Well, my gourmet rice idea was inspired by American media," says this 21-year-old hotel and restaurant institution management graduate. "You know how films and TV series always have this scene where the characters eat Chinese food? It's that particular concept which struck me. For me it was a feasible idea. So I thought, why not make a simple Filipino dish that would still be appropriate for Chinese take-out boxes?" True enough, Auster explored the idea of making this "take-out" culture of the Americans more Filipino. So out went the noodles and in came rice. From there, his experiment became gourmand.



AUSTER takes a sample of his delight.

THE CHEF in action

PHOTOS BY PAM PASTOR

Actually, food experimentation is nothing new for Auster. He started whipping up dishes for his family at age 12, making cakes and pastries to everyone's delight. He says he owes it to his parents, especially his father, for inspiring him to be a chef. "My dad began in the food business by managing a canteen. Before that he delivered hollow blocks by pushing *karitela*. He was able to put himself through architecture school with that job. And that inspires me. In a way, our food business is a symbol of how far our generation has come."

Successful venture

Today, the Perez household takes care of four ventures: the Boxy gourmet rice stand, Lomi House, Auster's Restaurant and KTV and their catering service. Next month, Auster will be adding another feather in his cap with the opening of his bar and grill that will serve native foods targeted for expatriates.

His gourmet rice was first introduced to the public at The Fort, where Auster and his four college friends put up a stall for a month called The Rice Stuff. And judging from the customers' response, they knew that the product would come a long way. "When people line up to your store even if it would take them more than 15 minutes to get their order, then your product must be really good," he says proudly. To prove how much of a hit it was, his friend testifies that the line for The Rice Stuff was even longer than the line for the circus rides. This also meant a 150 percent return on their investment. "It was really good while it lasted," says Auster, a gold medalist for the 1998 Chefs on Parade Cake Decorating Contest.

Since their one-month contract had ended, and Auster had to finish school, he had to put off his plan to supply the market with gourmet rice until last year, when he finally completed his studies.

"I now have two stalls—one in Batangas City and another in Lipa. That's where the family lives and manages our hotel business. Right now, negotiations are under way for the Manila branch." The Lipa branch, which is right across De La Salle University, is flocked by students especially during break time. And it's not surprising for Boxy is very affordable at P30 to P45.

All natural

"It's a meal in itself. The flavors I have don't just serve as toppings. That's the purpose of my vegetables. The meat, chicken and crab are packed into the whole meal so the rice embodies the flavor that the customer wants." His combinations are Chicken and Mushroom (P30), Beef and Mushroom(P30), Chicken and Sausage (P40), Chicken, Chorizo and Ham (P40), Shrimp, Squid and Crab(P40), Ham and Bacon (P45), Crab meat with *aligue* (P45) and Shrimp, Chicken, Ham and Crab (P45). The latter, according to Auster, is their bestseller.

True enough, when the 2bU! correspondents began devouring their orders, each one let out their own versions of "oohs," "mmmms" and "aaahs." Each flavor has its own distinct character and personality that literally bursts in your mouth. That can be attributed to Auster's use of all natural ingredients, instead of prepared powders. "Also, I don't use oil so it makes the dish very healthy," he adds. Exceptional is he who can do this all for three quick minutes, like Auster does.

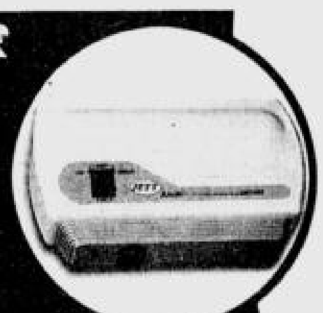
Back in college, Auster, as the majority floor leader of the student council, moved for the impeachment of their president. If you can do that in college, what else can you not do in the culinary world? Whatever that is, it certainly cannot stop Boxy from becoming an essential part of pop culture.

Boxy is open from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday to Saturday.

For franchising inquiries, call Auster at (0917)9654807, (043)3121699 or e-mail austerperez@hotmail.com.

Merry Merry Markdowns!
Extended until January 31, 2001
DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES
from 10% to 50% off !
on most items
Per DTI-NCR permit # AII-579 Series of 2000

Nag Wilma Tapalla Ka Na Ba?
Enroll in a Package-P1,750 Per Course Only!
GUARANTEED SUCCESS COURSES:
• Speech Dynamics Develop & Master Oral Skills
Wed. 8-10 AM or Saturdays 9-12 NN or Sundays 9-11 AM
• Practical Grammar & Conversations
Fluency and Mastery of the English Language
Wed. 10-12 NN or Saturdays 1-4 PM or Sundays 11-1 PM
• Public Speaking & Leadership Training
• Date with Destiny w/ Firewalk Challenge
• Rapid Reading & Comprehension
• Writing Skills • Personality in Action
WCT Kiddie Academy
(From 3 to 12 years old)
(With 7 Areas of Concentration: Speech, Theater Arts, Grammar, English Fluency, Reading & Comprehension, Character Bldg. & Personality Development)
Saturdays 9-12 NN or 1-4 PM
PRIVATE TUTORING for all courses is available
WCT Wilma Cruz-Tapalla
ACADEME OF SPEECH AND PERSONALITY
Since 1967
LEGARDA, SAMPALOC
2600 Rizal Hall, Arellano University
736-7656/57 or 736-7644
GREENHILLS
55 Annapolis St.
722-5620/27



New Jett ATMOR
Fully Automatic
Shower Heater!
The only water heater with the German Standard for Quality Manufacturing
ISO 9002
CALL
723-00-32 for Dealer Inquiries
Other No's: 415-93-81/ 415-93-75
Cebu : 344-33-44
JETT
THE WATER HEATER COMPANY
Free Installation & Free Lifetime Home Service for residents of Metro Manila, Metro Cebu & Baguio.

Now Open!
Old Manila Coffee & Crepes House
Remedios
Old Manila COFFEE HOUSE
Try our best tasting Arabica Coffee and savor the tastiest British Crepes ever!
548 Remedios St., Malate, Manila Tel. No. 400-6415

Baldness can strike anybody

It has always been believed that only men are affected by baldness and that this condition arises only during old age. Although a larger percentage of males experience baldness, females are not exempted from this. And even if baldness often comes with age, cases indicate that even the young experience hair loss.

Generally, the chances of going bald increase just after mid-20's when age starts to affect the health of the scalp and hair. During this decline, the circulation of the blood and absorption of nutrients by the hair follicles begin to slow down. Thus, hair strands become duller, weaker, thinner in diameter, more prone to fall and die. Although age is a factor that causes baldness, premature thinning of hair is a natural process that can also be inherited. There are also outside factors which can result to baldness. Inadequate nutrition, stress, prolonged illness, post-operative effects, slimming diets, pregnancy, prescribed drug treatments, overtreating of hair, excessive perming, bleaching, color treating, overexposure to heat and overstyling all contribute to hair loss.

So it really doesn't matter if you're young or old, male or female. If baldness runs in your family or if you have exposed your hair to harmful elements, you're bound to lose your hair sooner or later. But if your scalp is not yet in a smooth and shiny condition, this means your hair follicles are still alive and can be revitalized if addressed soon with the right treatment.

Foltène is a clinically tested hair care treatment that contains Trichosaccaride, a safe and natural ingredient which offers a safe method of stimulating the scalp to increase the absorption of nutrients by the hair roots. Aside from halting hair loss and preventing baldness, Foltène can also be effective against dandruff, split ends, dry or oily hair, as well as fine or brittle hair.

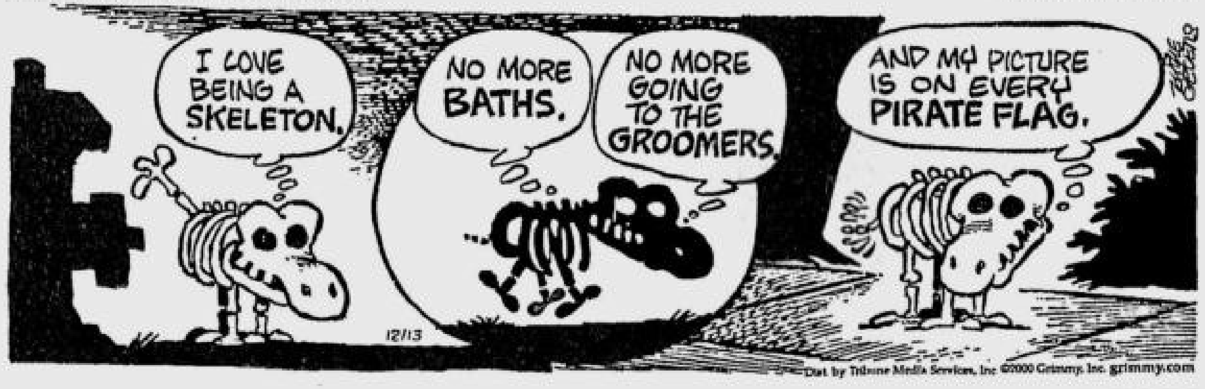
Foltène is so easy to apply. After shampooing, towel dry hair then apply Foltène directly to scalp. Do not rinse it off and do not shampoo again for at least six hours to ensure the essential contact time. Use only one vial at a time. For those with excessive falling or thinning hair, undergo the attack and maintenance phase where you apply one vial every other day for 40 days (20 vials). While in the maintenance phase, use two vials per week for two to three months. For those suffering from dandruff, dry hair, split ends and oily or dry scalp, use two vials per week for three months to ensure healthier scalp. Resume the attack or maintenance cycle as needed to maintain hair and scalp condition.

Foltène normalizes the hair's condition to solve hair dilemmas and assure you of healthy hair for a longer time.

For more inquiries, please write to:
The Patriot Bldg., Km. 18 West Service Road
South Luzon Expressway, Sucat, Parañaque City
Foltène®
WHEN YOU CAN'T STAND TO LOSE YOUR HAIR.
Marketed by: Natrapharm
Available at all mercury drug outlets, Family Drugstores and other leading drugstores nationwide.
For more inquiries, please call the Foltène Infoline: 541-4378 (office hours only).

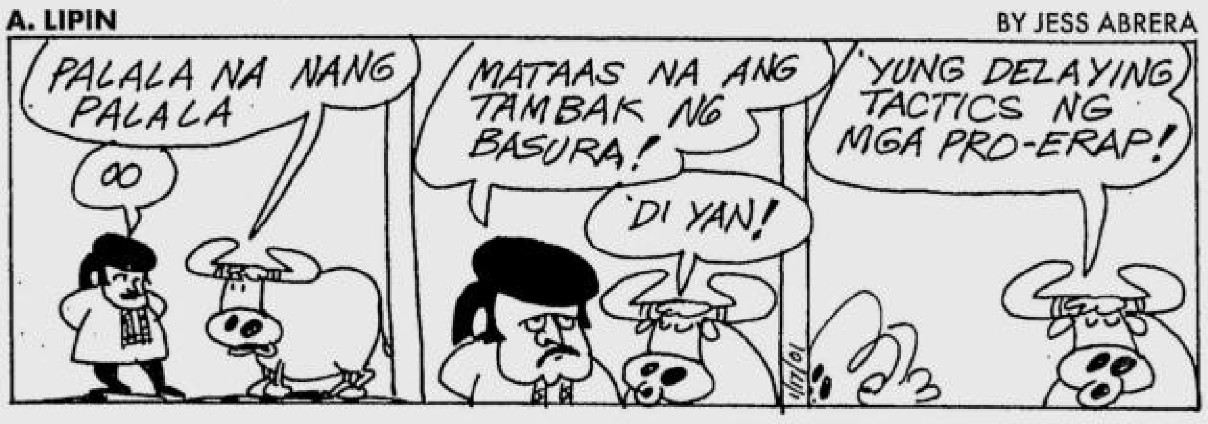
MARTIN NIEVERA
XV3 THE AFTERSHOCK
CROSSOVER LIVE TOUR
Saturday, January 20, 2001, 8:00 p.m.
GRAND BALLROOM, WATERFRONT HOTEL, LAHUG, CEBU CITY
Saturday, January 27, 2001, 8:00 p.m.
LA SALLE COLISEUM, BACOLOD CITY
Saturday, February 3, 2001, 8:00 p.m.
PSC-PHILSPORTS FOOTBALL FIELD
(Formerly ULTRA)
Saturday, February 10, 2001, 8:00 p.m.
BURGOS GYM, ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY, BAGUIO CITY

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS

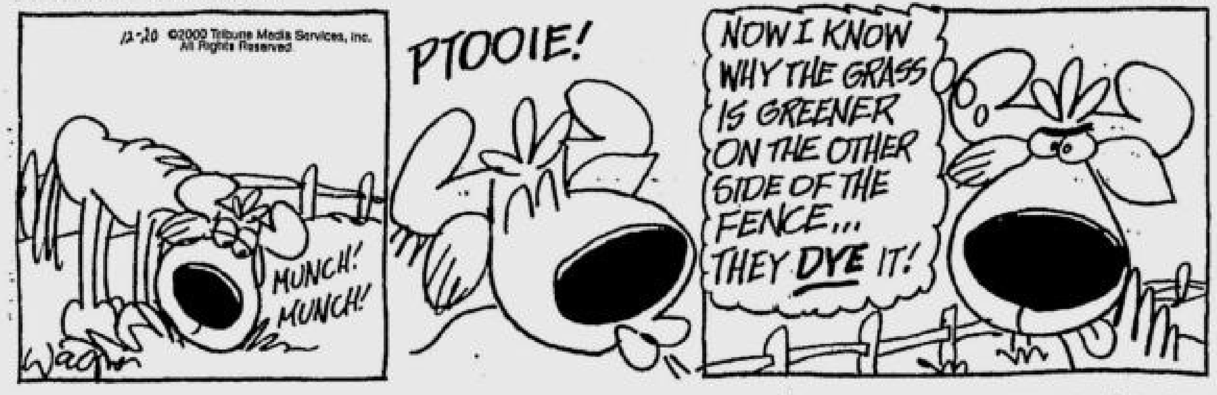

I LOVE BEING A SKELETON.
NO MORE BATHS.
NO MORE GOING TO THE GROOMERS.
AND MY PICTURE IS ON EVERY PIRATE FLAG.
12/13

Dist by Tribune Media Services, Inc ©2000 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com

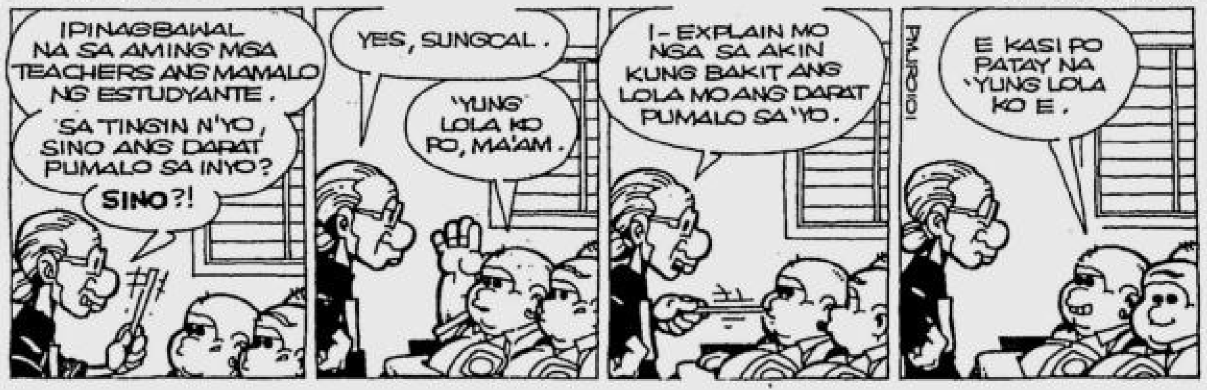
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


PALALA NA NANG PALALA
OO
MATAAS NA ANG TAMBAK NG BASURA!
'DI YAN!
'YUNG DELAYING TACTICS NG MGA PRO-ERAP!
1/17/01

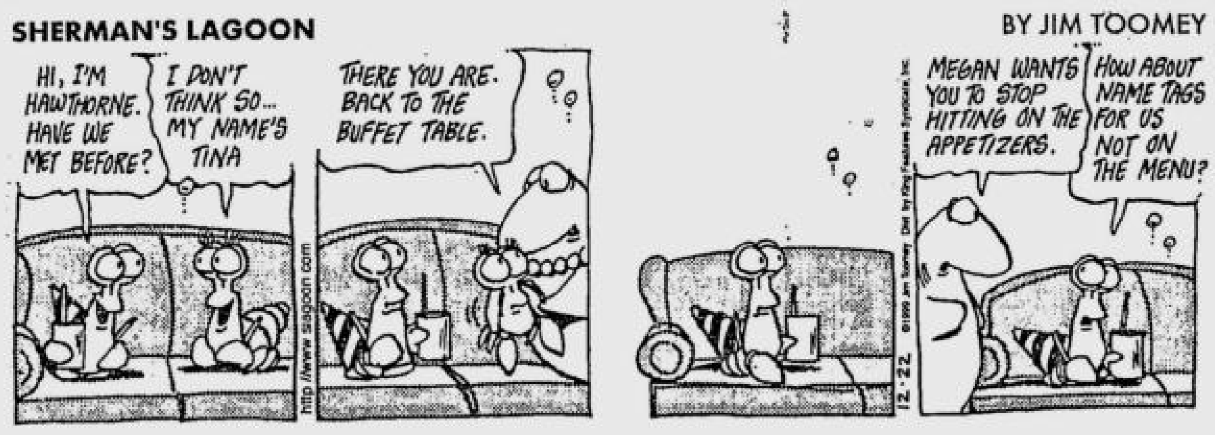
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


12-20 ©2000 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
MUNCH! MUNCH!
PTOOIE!
NOW I KNOW WHY THE GRASS IS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE... THEY DYE IT!

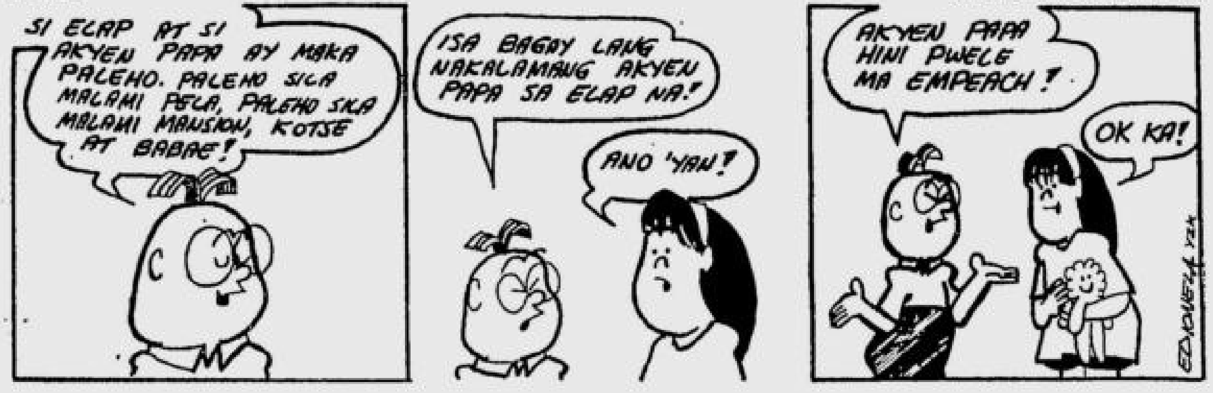
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


IPINAGBAWAL NA SA AMING MGA TEACHERS ANG MAMALO NG ESTUDYANTE.
'SA TINGIN N'YO, SINO ANG DARAT PUMALO SA INYO?
SINO?!
YES, SUNGCAL.
'YUNG LOLA KO PO, MA'AM.
I-EXPLAIN MO NGA SA AKIN KUNG BAKIT ANG LOLA MO ANG DARAT PUMALO SA'YO.
E KASI PO PATAY NA 'YUNG LOLA KO E.

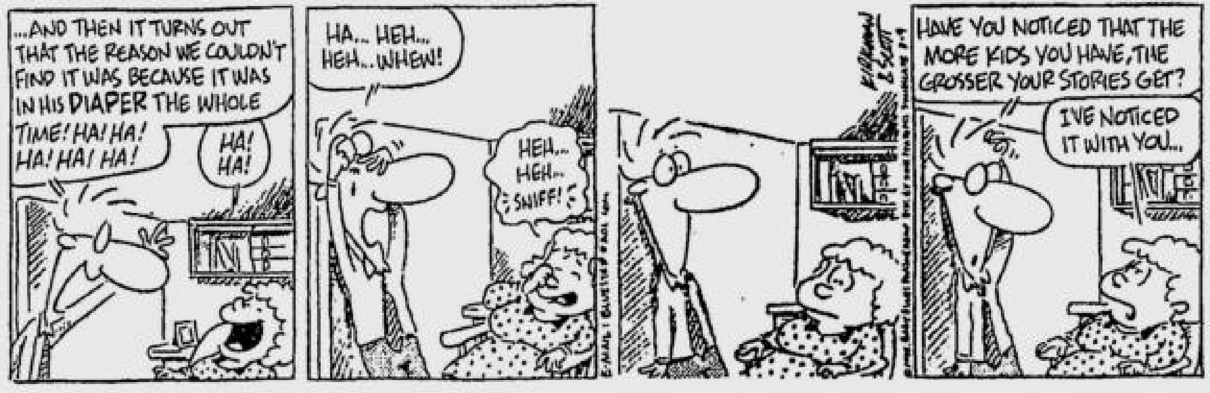
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


HI, I'M HAWTHORNE. HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
I DON'T THINK SO... MY NAME'S TINA
THERE YOU ARE. BACK TO THE BUFFET TABLE.
MEGAN WANTS YOU TO STOP HITTING ON THE APPETIZERS.
HOW ABOUT NAME TAGS FOR US NOT ON THE MENU?
http://www.slagoon.com
12-22

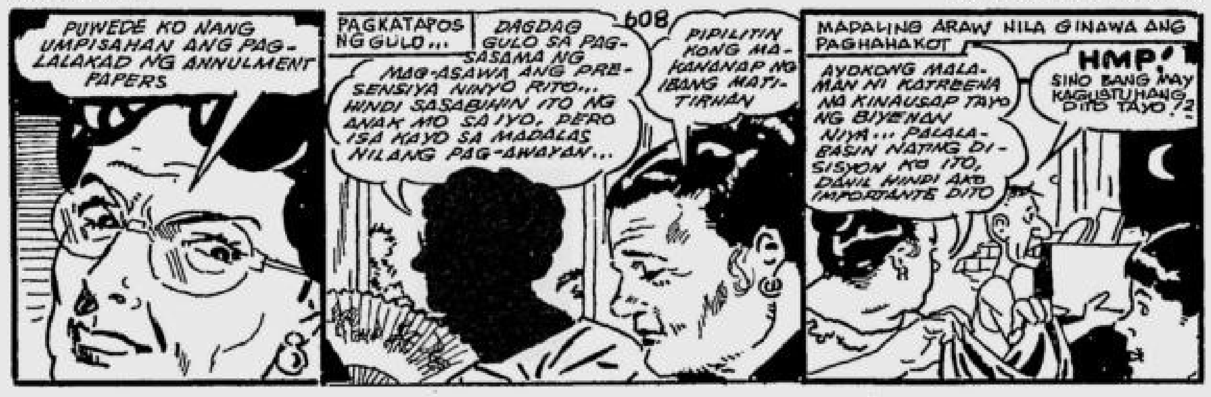
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


SI ELAP AT SI AKYEN PAPA AY MAKA PALEHO. PALEHO SILA MALAMI PELA, PALEHO SKA MALAMI MANSION, KOTSE AT BABAE!
ISA BAGAY LANG NAKALAMANG AKYEN PAPA SA ELAP NA!
ANO 'YAN!
AKYEN PAPA HINI PWELE MA EMPEACH!
OK KA!
EDIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


...AND THEN IT TURNS OUT THAT THE REASON WE COULDN'T FIND IT WAS BECAUSE IT WAS IN HIS DIAPER THE WHOLE TIME! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
HA! HA!
HA... HEH... HEH... WHEW!
HEH... HEH... SNIFF!
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT THE MORE KIDS YOU HAVE, THE GROSSER YOUR STORIES GET?
I'VE NOTICED IT WITH YOU...

KATREENA BY JOY CONIENDO


PUWEDE KO NANG UMPISAHAN ANG PAG-LALAKAD NG ANNULMENT PAPERS
PAGKATAPOS NG GULO...
DAGDAG GULO SA PAG-SASAMA NG MAG-ASAWA ANG PRE-SENSIYA NINYO RITO... HINDI SASABIHIN ITO NG ANAK MO SA IYO, PERO ISA KAYO SA MADALAS NILANG PAG-AWAYAN...
608
PIPILITIN KONG MA-KAHANAP NG IBANG MATI-TIRHAN
MADALING ARAW NILA GINAWA ANG PAGHAHAKOT
AYOKONG MALA-MAN NI KATREENA NA KINAUSAP TAYO NG BIYENAN NIYA... PALALA-BASIN NATING DI-SISYON KO ITO, DAHIL HINDI AKO IMPORTANTE DITO
HMP! SINO BANG MAY KAGUSTUHANG DITO TAYO?!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Muhammad Ali, Betty White, Shari Lewis, Andy Kaufman, Jim Carrey, Mick Taylor, James Earl Jones, Maury Povich, Kid Rock

Happy Birthday: You will have to be well-organized if you are going to do all that you have planned. The quicker you can make decisions, the better. You should enlist the help of those who can work as quickly and creatively as you. Take control as the year unfolds, and you should be able to manipulate your way through the obstacles along the way. Your numbers: 9, 14, 23, 26, 38, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can get down to business if you put your mind to it. Financial gains can be made if you don't waste time. Remember that the early bird catches the worm.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will have to control your emotions if you wish to keep your personal life harmonious. Your tendency to be stubborn and refuse to see your mate's concerns will lead to a stalemate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look into moneymaking investments that will not require too much attention or time on your part. Check out ways of helping youngsters. Physical activities will be exhilarating.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your involvement in organized events will be trying if you are pressured to contribute more than you can afford. Don't let others talk you into things that you really don't want to do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't count on any help from loved ones or roommates. Your ability to do your job well will lead to positive changes and a higher income. Personal moves will not be favorable at this time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be tempted to take off today. Don't be afraid to talk about your personal dilemmas with a trusted friend. You will solve your problem if you observe other people's motives.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Changes in your financial situation will be upsetting. Take some time to do things for yourself. You need time to reflect on the past as well as relationships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Jealousy may stand in the way of a really good relationship. You must try to be compassionate and understanding when dealing with your mate. This is not the time to disagree.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful not to divulge information about your private life. You will be able to sign important documents and make financial gains if you keep your personal problems under control.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a long hard look at yourself. Don't be afraid to make changes. Your motives should be reevaluated. You may have been pointing your finger at the wrong person.

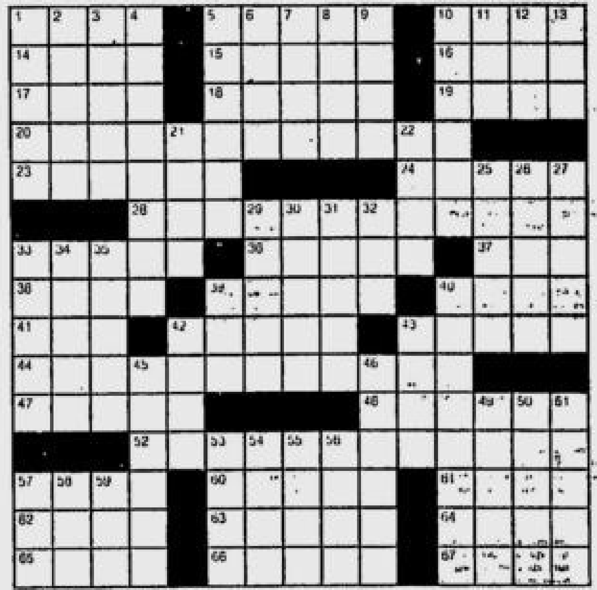
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can expect problems with family members today. You will do well if you get involved in real estate or property investments. Contracts can be signed and agreements formulated.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel will be your best bet as long as you don't allow others to take you for granted. You will be emotional when discussing your personal life. Try to keep your true feeling to yourself.

Birthday Baby: You tend to be a serious thinker. Because you are always trying to stay one step ahead of everyone else, many people will come to you with their problems. You are giving, loyal and just.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

12/4/00

ACROSS
1 Pound to a pulp
5 Chops up
10 Final word?
14 Italian eight
15 Turn inside out
16 Great review
17 Yard-sale warning
18 Spanish sauce
19 Food fad
20 Print size, perhaps
23 Overindulging
24 In a dominant position
28 Bygone bargain spot
33 Crimean resident
36 Left bed
37 Miss West
38 Caspian's neighbor
39 Wane
40 Thaw
41 Star Wars letters
42 Raccoon's cousin
43 False appearance
44 Substantial Stetson
47 Word on a door
48 Mario Puzo book
52 Carpenter's three-incher
57 One of The Jacksons
60 Start of path?
61 Author Ferber
62 Moises of baseball
63 Ulan __, Mongolia
64 Thailand, once
65 Escutcheon flaw
66 Laurel and Mikita
67 Mediocre

DOWN
1 Castles' defenses
2 Confused
3 Work period
4 Medical facility
5 Fashion in the mind
6 Terrible tsar?
7 Ancient Briton
8 In the past, in the past
9 Stick around
10 Passionate
11 __ tai cocktail
12 Night before
13 Seine
21 Lulu
22 Dissimulation
25 Actress Marisa
26 Ph.D. exams
27 Calvin of the PGA
29 Clive Barker novel
30 Muse of lyric poetry
31 Out
32 Half an African fly?
33 Refinement
34 "As You Like It" forest
35 Contaminate
39 Major ISP
40 Silence
42 Be concerned
43 Ill-smelling
45 Leave at once!
46 Tributes paid
49 Active starter?
50 Yothers and Louise
51 San Antonio shrine
53 One-point jacks in cribbage
54 Junior's exam
55 Blues singer James
56 Dodge model
57 Can opener
58 Off one's feed
59 In addition

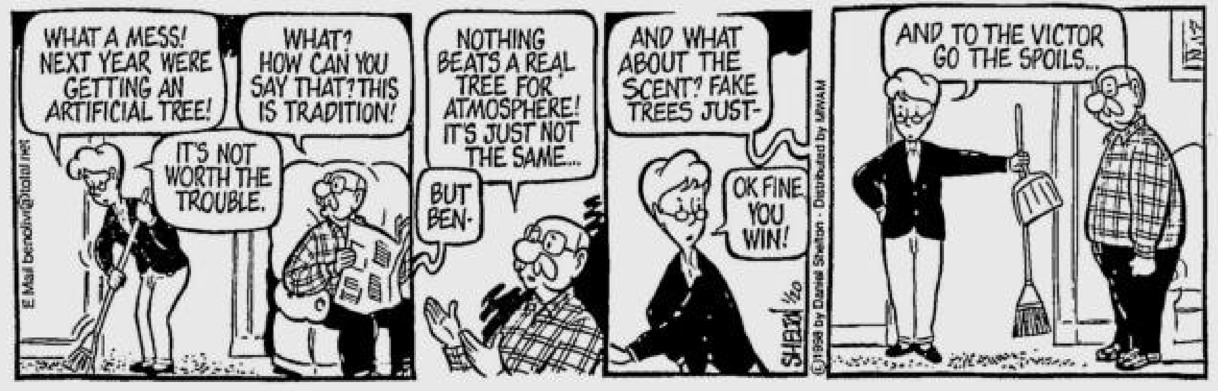
PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

U	N	P	R	E	S	S	E	D		A	L	O	O	F
S	A	T	E	L	L	I	T	E		L	A	U	R	A
A	T	A	G	L	A	N	C	E		L	U	R	E	D
			R	E	V	S			F	A	R			
R	E	D	O	N			P	A	R	L	E	Y	E	D
E	C	R	U		A	F	I	C	I	O	N	A	D	O
S	L	A	P		L	I	C	H	E	N		R	A	C
T	A	S		S	I	N	K	I	N	G		D	S	T
A	I	T		T	A	I	L	E	D		S	A	N	O
T	R	I	M	E	S	T	E	R	S		E	G	E	R
E	S	C	A	P	E	E	S			U	S	F	R	S
			I	P	S			R	A	P	T			
A	B	O	D	E		V	I	E	N	T	I	A	N	E
D	O	T	E	R		A	N	A	C	O	N	D	A	S
A	X	O	N	S		N	A	M	E	N	A	M	E	S

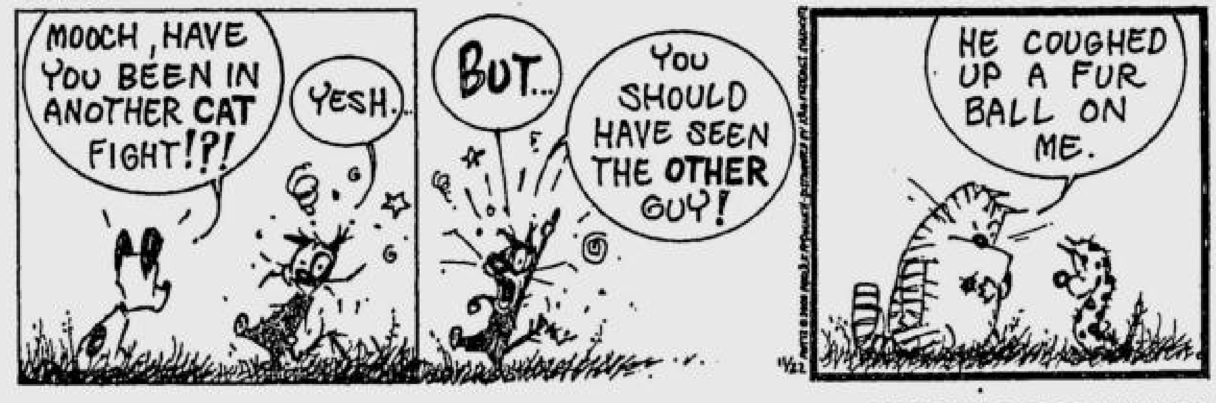
(C)2000 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

12/4/00

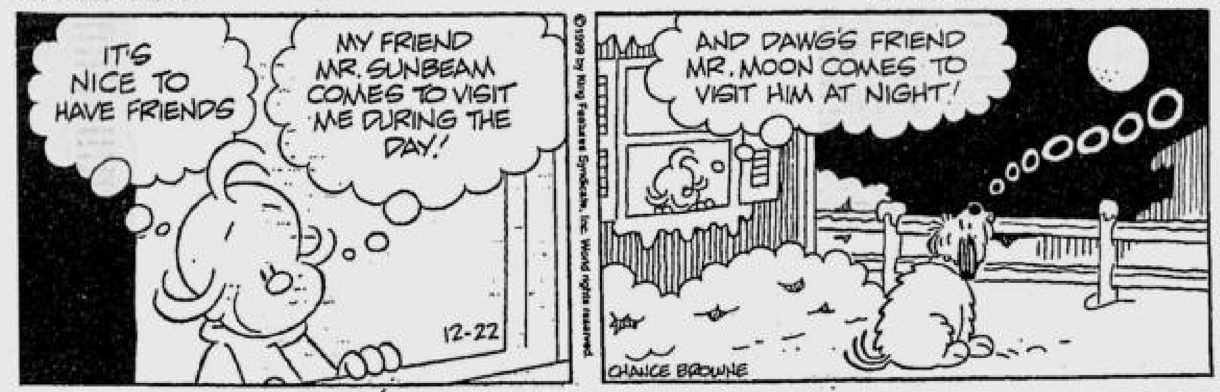
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT A MESS! NEXT YEAR WERE GETTING AN ARTIFICIAL TREE!
IT'S NOT WORTH THE TROUBLE.
WHAT? HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? THIS IS TRADITION!
NOTHING BEATS A REAL TREE FOR ATMOSPHERE! IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME...
BUT BEN-
AND WHAT ABOUT THE SCENT? FAKE TREES JUST-
OK FINE YOU WIN!
AND TO THE VICTOR GO THE SPOILS...
E Mail benoliv@total.net
©1998 by Daniel Shelton · Distributed by MWAM

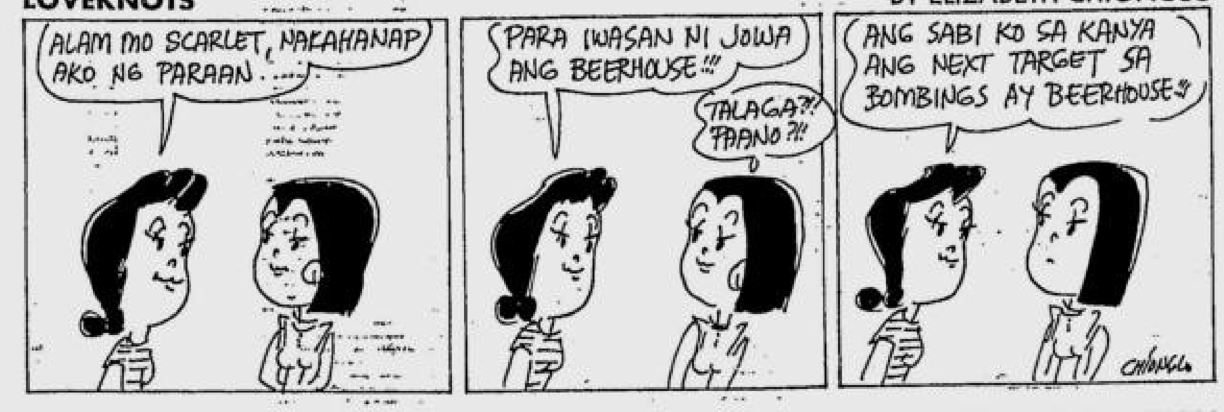
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH, HAVE YOU BEEN IN ANOTHER CAT FIGHT!?!
YESH...
BUT...
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE OTHER GUY!
HE COUGHED UP A FUR BALL ON ME.
11/22

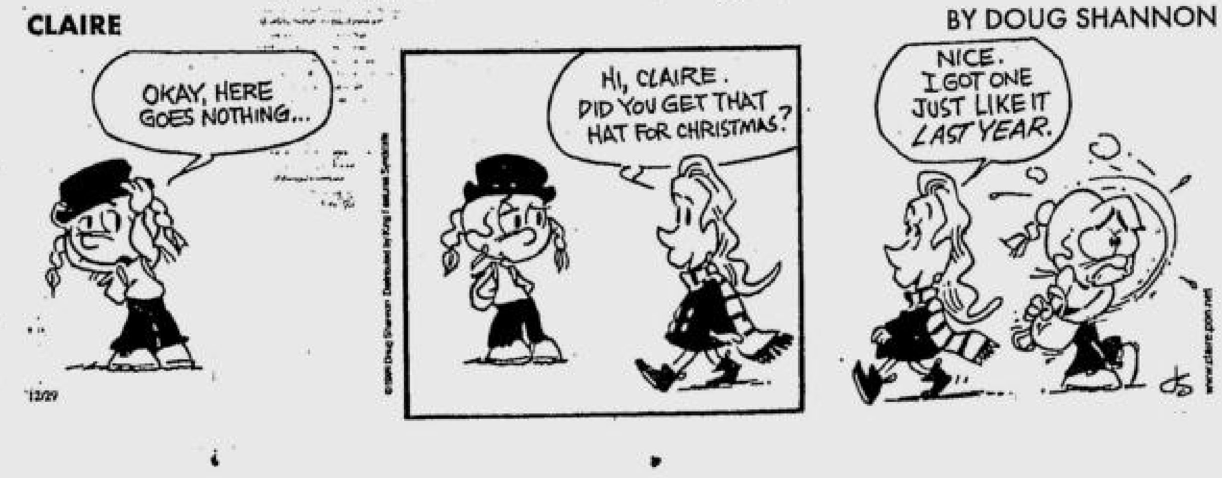
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IT'S NICE TO HAVE FRIENDS
MY FRIEND MR. SUNBEAM COMES TO VISIT ME DURING THE DAY!
12-22
©1999 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
AND DAWG'S FRIEND MR. MOON COMES TO VISIT HIM AT NIGHT!
CHANCE BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO SCARLET, NAKAHANAP AKO NG PARAAN....
PARA IWASAN NI JOWA ANG BEERHOUSE!!!
TALAGA?!! PAANO?!!
ANG SABI KO SA KANYA ANG NEXT TARGET SA BOMBINGS AY BEERHOUSE!!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE BY DOUG SHANNON

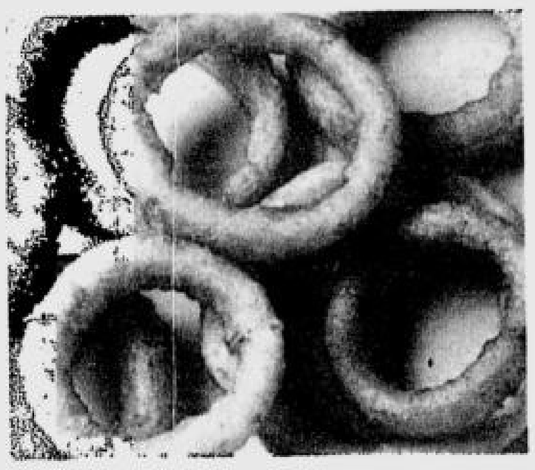

OKAY, HERE GOES NOTHING...
HI, CLAIRE. DID YOU GET THAT HAT FOR CHRISTMAS?
NICE. I GOT ONE JUST LIKE IT LAST YEAR.
12/29

Round-up of onion rings

BY PAMELA ANGELA SALOMON PASTOR

GLORIETTA, 1800 hours. The mission: To find the best onion rings in the mall. Armed with my wallet, trusty old notebook and pen, I headed to six different restaurants and sampled their versions of the greasy fast-food classic—the onion ring.

There are two kinds of onion rings—battered or breaded. What may seem to us as just a simple throw-in-the-pan-and-fry dish actually is a more complicated process. It takes certain wisdom to keep the onion rings from crumbling to pieces, whether breaded or battered. Different restaurants offer different kinds. No two restaurants serve them exactly alike. This I confirmed when I OD'd on the goods. Here are the results:



Burger King

This fast-food chain is not only famous for the Whopper and the bottomless drinks, it also takes pride in giving customers a choice—"Would you like fries or onion rings with that burger?"

Their onion rings are smaller compared to the others and are made with a rich breading that has a tendency to be overpowering sometimes. The texture is a bit rough. One officemate even complained that her mouth got cut while eating. Because the breading is thick, you can hardly taste the onion, especially after you dunk the rings in ketchup. This is probably why a lot of kids like it.

Although these onion rings are fantastic when eaten with the restaurant's burgers and sandwiches, they leave a greasy aftertaste in the mouth.

If it's affordability you're looking for, though, then Burger King is the place for you. At only P18 per regular order (that's about 11 pieces), this is possibly the most inexpensive place to get onion rings.

Don Henrico's

A whole basketful of onion rings costs P115 (plus tax) at Don Henrico's. The onions are sliced thinner and are a bit well done. The onion rings are crunchy and have a tendency to break into pieces. They're a bit oily but the tangy white sauce served with each order helps in getting rid of the grease factor.

Carl's Jr.

A lot of people I know adore the onion rings at Carl's Jr. At P49 per order (only five large rings), these are the most expensive in the list. Although cooked well and crisp, the onion has a tendency to separate from the breading when you bite into it.

You can choose between dipping the rings in ketchup or Carl's ranch sauce. I suggest you let your palate have a little adventure. Try the ranch dressing. It's really good—flavorful and has a slightly cheesy taste. It enhances the taste of the onion rings.

Taters

If eating popcorn while watching a movie is no longer doing anything for you, try bringing onion rings into the theater. Taters' onion rings come in different sizes. Served really hot, they're fluffy and covered with a very rich batter (don't overdose). The onions are juicy and sweet. One order (seven pieces) is P39. One tip: they're still good even when cold.

Racks

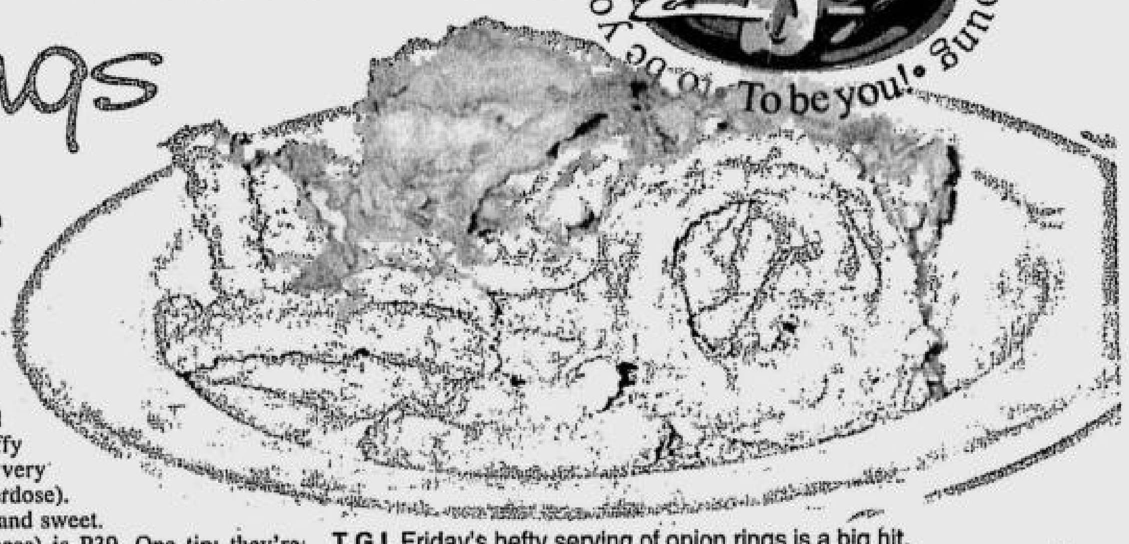
If value for money is what you're looking for, head over to Racks. One huge plate of onion rings (about 27 pieces) costs only P45. The batter is thin, almost translucent. These are served with ketchup, but they taste better with mayonnaise. Racks' onion rings taste very "homemade" but are a bit greasy.

T.G.I. Friday's

"Thinly sliced onion, lightly battered and fried golden crisp." The one-liner in the menu doesn't do it justice. This is the winner. Although a tad bit more expensive at P95 (plus tax), this hefty serving of onion rings (about 30 large rings per order) is sure to make everyone—even non-onion lovers—beg for more. One order can be shared by a group.

The onions are large and sweet; the batter is crisp and flaky. The rings do not fall apart when you bite into them. No need to suffer the embarrassment of messy eating. Each order is often served with ketchup, but you can always ask for extra mayonnaise.

E-mail the author at pammy@exchange.ph

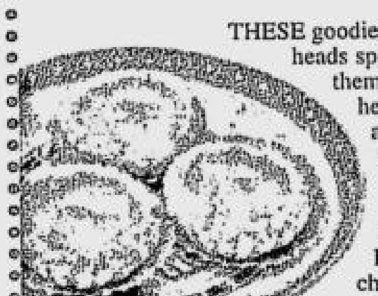


T.G.I. Friday's hefty serving of onion rings is a big hit.

PHOTO BY PAM PASTOR

2BU! RECOMMENDS

Musts for your palate



LIGHT, flaky egg tarts

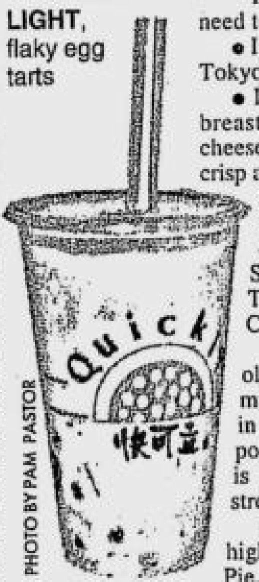


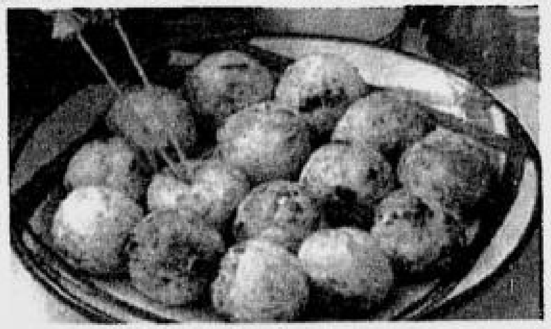
PHOTO BY PAM PASTOR

THESE goodies might just make your heads spin. If you haven't tried them yet, we suggest you head out the door now and give the 2bU! favorites a shot.

- If pearl shakes aren't your thing, Quickly's Taro Ice might just change your mind.
- North Park's Salted Fried Rice is a meal in itself. No need to order a main dish.
- Inexpensive and mouthwatering, Tokyo Tokyo's Yakisoba is a must.
- Imagine a huge slab of chicken breast, smothered with mozzarella cheese and mushrooms, served with crisp and lightly battered mushrooms, a steaming hot baked potato drizzled with sour cream, bacon and chives and sweet corn on a cob. Sounds good? Then head on to T.G.I. Friday's for their Mushroom Chicken and Mushroom.
- Try a different twist to the old fish balls and squid balls. Samurai's Takoyaki (found in stalls in most supermarkets), which are popularly known as Samurai balls, is the Japanese alternative to our street food.
- Chocoholics will get their sugar high with Hard Rock Café's Mud Pie.
- We don't just go to the food court in Enterprise building for the ambience. The nutty choco banana crepes from Souper Crepes and the warm, flaky egg tarts are two major reasons.
- Vegetable-haters may just change their minds. Thai In a Box's Thai Kangkong and Kamayan's Crispy Kangkong are flavorful and healthy.
- Here's another reason to go to Friday's: the Banana Split Pie. The what?! Three layers of ice cream—strawberry, banana and chocolate—on a bed of rice crispies, topped with whipped cream and drizzled with chocolate syrup.
- Little Caesar's Italian Cheese Bread is bursting with flavor. It almost tastes like pizza. The best thing about it? The price.
- Most people will agree. Pancake House still has the best tacos today.
- Here's another one for sugar junkies. St. Michael's Break In milk chocolate biscuits are heaven-sent. With every biteful of the crunchy biscuit, the rich, creamy chocolate melts in your mouth.
- Miggy's Churros are served with a creamy chocolate dip that would have you licking your fingers.
- If you're looking for 100-percent real lemonade, North Park's version will tickle your palate. The good news? They deliver.

Pamela Angela Salomon Pastor

LITTLE Caesar's Italian cheesebread



JAPANESE *takoyaki* balls

parent trapped

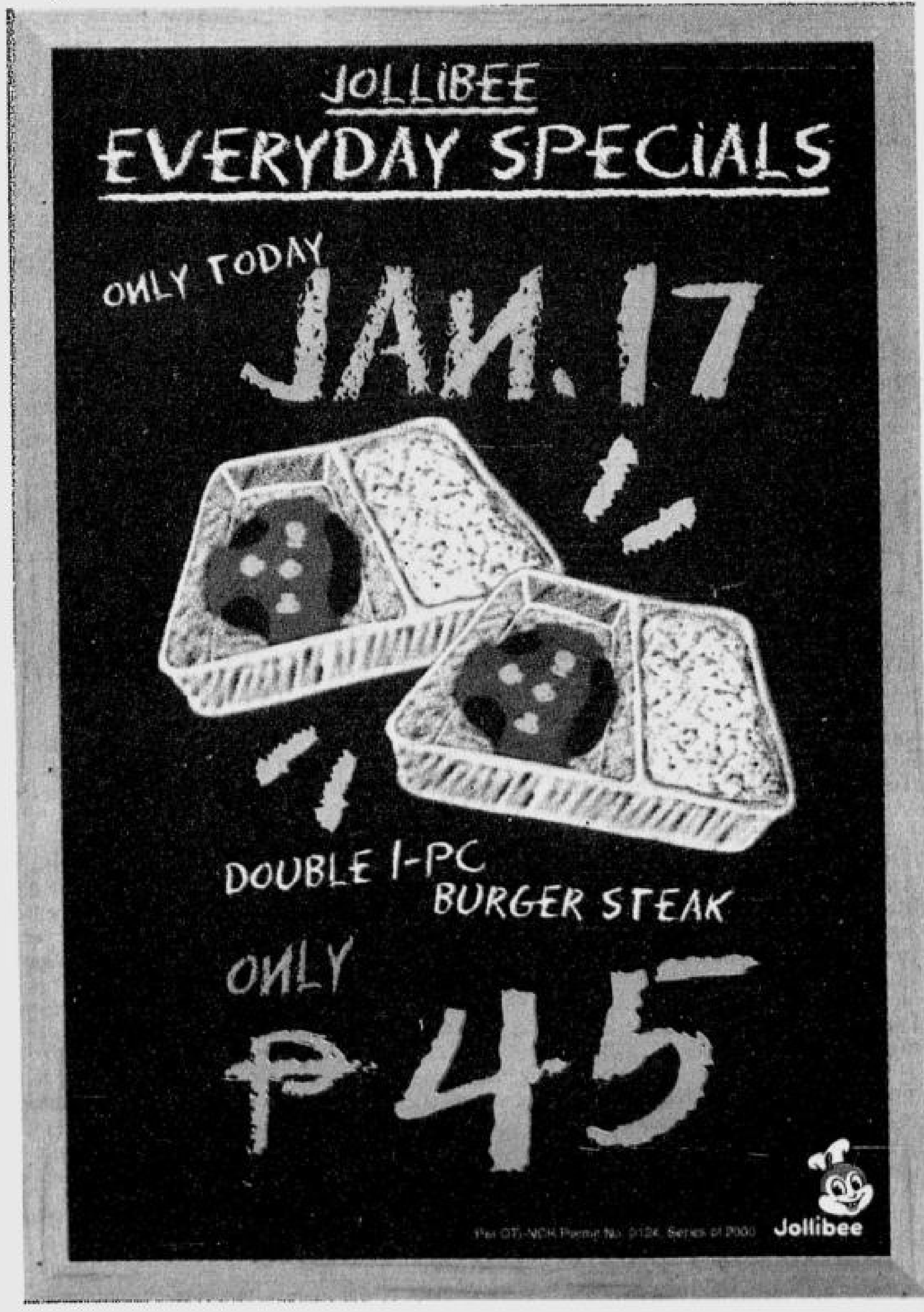
ms. merit answers

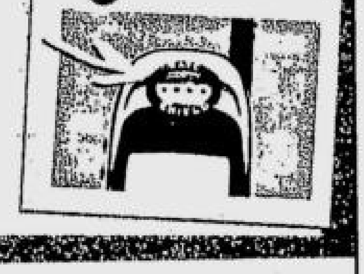
Q I transferred my son last year to another school and to my dismay found the new school worse than his previous school. Should I move him back to his old school? RVA

Transferring schools is such an overwhelming task for both parents and child. The child has to deal with a lot of adjustment from environmental change to adapting socially. For the parents on the other hand, there is the documentation, the interview, so forth and so on.

But sometimes we have to examine the reasons why there is a need for change. Mencius, the well-known Chinese philosopher, transferred homes three times because his mother felt that his environment is not conducive for his intellectual development. They finally settled down when his mother deemed the environment good for Mencius, thus formed one of the greatest minds in China. There will always be good teachers and bad teachers in every school. Allow your child to encounter bad teachers. The real world your child will someday live in is made up of good and bad people. Learning to deal with all kinds of people is education itself. You cannot shield your child from bad people forever. Family education is as important if not more important than class lessons. What the school fails to achieve will not be solved by just mere transfer to another school. There is no better dedicated teachers than parents.

Please send your questions to merit paper products, parent trapped, 88 Samson Road, cor MPL Road, Sucat, Muntinlupa City, or fax us at 02.842.1626.





Introducing
WAVE SHIELD
CELLPHONE RADIATION
What's protecting your brain from cell phone radiation?

It's the ONLY tested and certified cellphone anti-radiation device that blocks 97% of the harmful radiation that may affect your BRAIN.

* Tested and certified by Global Certification Lab, U.S.A.
Manufactured in the U.S.A.

Attaches in seconds and fits all phone styles.

WAVESHIELD
The anti-radiation cellphone stick-on
For inquiries, please call 809-4143 or 725-5467
email: waveshield@pinoycentral.com
www.waveshield.com
Exclusively distributed by Wave Shield Philippines, Inc.

Exclusively Distributed By: Wave Shield Philippines, Inc.
For inquiries call 8094143; 7255467; 8070946; 09175396766; 09178140117; 09174453223 and 09175392053 • email: waveshield@pinoycentral.com
Available in the following outlets: METRO MANILA and LUZON: CELLSTAR PHILIPPINES INC. authorized dealers: All SM Appliance Stores *(SM Fairview, SM Cubao, SM Southmall, SM North Edsa, SM Centerpoint and SM Bacoor)* • WIRELESS CONNECTION outlets in *5/F SM Megamall Bldg. A, 3/F SM Centerpoint and U/G SM Southmall* •MAKRO Sucat • WALTER Mart Stores • Total Gas Station, *Alabang* • MOBILINK *Vivo Bldg., beside Metropolis Mall Alabang* • GLOBOTEL, *Anson Arcade, Pasay Rd. Mkti (facing Greenbelt, beside Salsaki)* • BEAUTY CONCEPT *18 Jade Garden Cmpd., Ortigas Ave. San Juan 7257918* • ADI TELECOMS Outlets: *2/F Rustan's Cubao; 2/F SM City Fairview, 3/F SM City Bacoor, Cavite; G/F Pavillion Mall, Biñan, Laguna; G/F Jenra Mall, Angeles City; 128 Upper Session Road; Baguio; 2/F Fiesta Mall, Lipa City, Batangas; 3/F SM City, San Fernando, Pampanga; G/F Cooyeesan Mall, Baguio City; G/F Inca Bldg. Naga City* • MACTELCOM CORP. outlets: *Almeda Arcade Pasay Rd. & 2/F Goldcrest Glorietta Mkti* • ORANGE COMMUNICATIONS *2/F Virramall, Greenhills* • TRI-MEDIX Int'l. Resources, Inc. *8-C Benitez St., QC.* • ZONE.COM *1231 J. Barlin St. Dapitan, Sampaloc, Manila* • CELL POWER SALES *Binondo, Masangkay St., Sta. Cruz, Manila 2513709* • ASTRON PHILIPPINES INC. *9142387 to 88* • All MEGA CELLULAR NETWORK Outlets: *G/F & 2/F Metrolpolis Mall, Alabang; 3/F Festival Mall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/F Airport Mall, Sucat; G/f Uniwide Las Piñas; 2/f Harrison Plaza; 3/F Robinson's Place, Malate; G/F Isetan Recto; Food Court Shangri-la Plaza, Mand.; G/F SM Cubao; 4/F Robinson's Imus; 3/F Robinson's Los Baños; Caedo Coom. Ctr.,Batangas City* ILOILO: Q SOLUTIONS *G/F Marymart Mall, Valencia St., Iloilo City* CEBU: ALCORDO INTERNATIONAL *(032) 253-9159, 253-9149* • ADI TELECOMS *2/F Reclamation Area, Cebu City* • COMTEL ELECTRONICS *(032) 253-8215, 253-8213* • DREAMWORKS *(Lahug) (032) 233-9200* • BO'S COFFEE CLUB *(Mactan) (032) 340-2486 loc. 2061* • BO'S COFFEE CLUB *(Capitol) (032) 255-4989* • CEBU CELLULAR CENTER *(032) 255-5262* • TELETEC *(032) 4125161* • JUNREX *(032) 233-8082* • RGM *(beside Comtel)* • RC Goldline *(Infront Velez Hospital)* • EVER BRIGHT COMMUNICATIONS *(032) 253-5717* DAVAO: MACTELCOM *outlets in JS Gaisano Citimall, Illustre Street, and G/F YL Finance Building, JP Laurel Street, Bajada (082) 222-4407, (082) 222-4088* • MARZON HARDWARE *#54 Ramon Magsaysay Avenue, Davao City, Tel. Nos. (082) 226-4368, 226-4995, Fax No. (082) 221-0728*

WARNER MUSIC
PHILIPPINES
INQUIRER 2bU!
in cooperation with
odyssey
THE #1 MUSIC STORE

GIVE YOU A REASON
TO ENJOY
YOUR VALENTINE WITH
the Corrs

Win tickets to
the Corrs concert on
February 16!

Simply fax in your name, address,
telephone number and answers to
this question:

"WHY DO YOU LOVE THE CORRS?"

to Warner Music Philippines 526-03-42.
Two lucky winners will get a chance
to meet the Corrs backstage!

Deadline of entries is on February 12

New

Grab your copies of
SPECIAL EDITION IN BLUE
CDs and CASSETTES at
ODYSSEY OUTLETS
and other RECORD BARS
NATIONWIDE.

Featuring previously unreleased tracks
LOVE IN THE MILKY WAY
and LOOKING IN THE EYES OF LOVE

Plus new versions of
NO MORE CRY, AT YOUR SIDE
HASTE TO THE WEDDING and SO YOUNG

Also included in the Special Edition "In Blue":
"BREATHLESS" • "IRRESISTIBLE" • "GIVE ME A REASON"

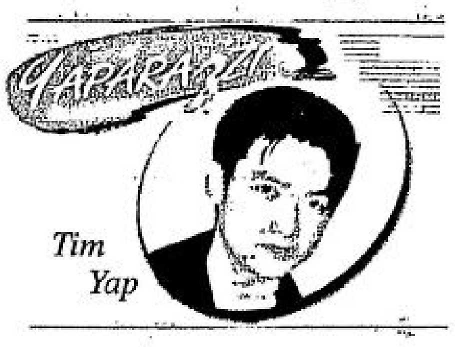
FOR RENT. Bobby Garcia shoots it

GOLD AND BOLD. Tina Pamintuan and Marco Antonio

TRIP hop with Mich Dulce and Marco Lobregat at the Pen

BELLS are ringing for JM Rodriguez and Carlo Ledesma.

Pacman and the pacesetters



Tim Yap

"COMPUTER games don't affect kids; if Pac-Man affected us kids, we'd all be running around in darkened rooms, munching magic pills and listening to repetitive electronic music."—Anonymous text message

The year's first month has been a time for sobering up. After the season-ender's gold gatherings, New Year shebangs and beach trippings, the city's hip young set is getting ready for hot new happenings to spice up the strip, natural or otherwise.

Lively launch

Weeks ago saw the lively launch of the "Rent"-Manila CD at Tower. Yes, we already have our own version, with **Martin Nievera** no less singing "Seasons of Love," **Calvin Millado** crooning "One Song, Glory," and the rest of the cast giving life to selections of Larson's contemporary theatrical musical masterpiece.

I even bought a couple of discs and gave it away as New Year presents. Kudos to **Bobby Garcia** and Atlantis Productions for this feat!

Then, all roads led to Stars, where **Ika Ysmael** threw a surprise bash for bubbly boss **EJ Litton**. EJ was visibly delighted seeing all his friends and family who showed up, all expressing their love and support for this man with a big, big heart.

Before that, I dropped by Cork at Rockwell, where trendy twins **Angelique** (who now jetsets with L'Oréal) and **Stephanie** (the hipster behind Milkwear) **Villaraza** were having their natal feat. It was a feast overflowing with fine wine and foie gras, coupled with fab company and great vibe.

What's up for this week? This Friday has Ibiza's most happening sunset bar Café Mambo, popular for introducing the preclub party among other events, here in town with UK DJ **Rob Tissera** and **TC** of Traxx and DJ **Papi** to start the year right.

Beyond extreme

I went to Café Mambo in Ibiza, Spain, last summer, and I guarantee you, it's hot, hot, hot. Let's see if this party at Wherelse? comes up to expectations.

Then come Saturday, a Joey 92.3 FM-, Shell Helix- and PLDT-sponsored exhibit of **Michael Shumacher**'s winning Formula 1 Ferrari car, plus a "Beyond Extreme" party, happens at the NBC Tent at the Fort, where a raffle trip for two to the Malaysian Grand Prix this March is up at stake!

While we're at it, do check out Mega Magazine's hot new website, ivegotstyle.net—the country's first total fashion portal, to be launched this month.

Also on this page, witness the city's youth pacesetters.

Now back to my Mario brothers…

HOT, hot, hot Amanda Griffin in party mode

TRENDSETTING twins Angelique and Stephanie Villaraza

COOSOME couple Audrey Tan and Mike Huang

HIP scenesters Gabby de la Rama and Oudine Santos

PREPPIE pals Eddie Boy Santos and Joel Ong at Rockwell PHOTOS: TIM YAP

SPARKLING. Jenny Suarez and RJ Ledesma

DASHING. Marco and Eugie Rodriguez

She wants to turn down one guy and reveal her feelings to another

September Mahino & Carlos Garchitorena

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I met a guy last Christmas. Let's just call him Kiko. Lately he's been calling me, and I must admit we've become friends. Not that close, but friends nonetheless.

Just a couple of weeks ago, he confessed about liking me a lot. And he really isn't being at all shy about his feelings nor the fact that he wants us to be more than just friends.

Problem is, I'm not in any way attracted to Kiko. Instead, I'm beginning to like his best friend Joey (not his real name). Joey and I have been talking over the phone, too, and, I must admit, I like having conversations with him more than with his best friend.

I think he's beginning to reciprocate my feelings, too. He may not be as expressive as Kiko, but I like his style of "calling *kasi, uhm, wala lang*" and "texting every so often" better than I like Kiko's sometimes too forward admissions.

How do I let Kiko down without hurting his feelings? I know it doesn't sound possible, but is there any way, whatsoever, that I could let him down gently? How do I let Joey in on how I feel without seeming too aggressive? Can my choosing Joey over Kiko really ruin their friendship? They are such good friends and I don't want to see their friendship ruined. But I really can't help my feelings. Am I being selfish?

Sep and Caloy, this 15-year-old really, really needs your help... and fast!

JULIA

Kiko sounds like someone we all know who, more often than not, wears his heart on his wristband. He courted this beautiful but confused girl in '98, promised her the moon. They had the potential to make history. Their story could have made a romance novel turn its own pages.

Like Kiko, though, he was too aggressive for his own good and his forward admissions (honest but at times blundering) put my friend's relationship on the rocks. *Kampante.*

Two things that Kiko and this blundering fool have in common is they fall in love way too easily and it is their destiny to make the supreme sacrifice.

You must let him down, albeit easy. The male ego is oh-so-very-big and it sticks out like Steve Martin's schnoz in "Roxanne," or our friend's wine-barrel belly. So you need tact. It will put a strain on your two boys' relationship, so prepare a contingency plan. As MacGyver would say, "I needed a diVERsion."

Set Kiko up with another friend. She doesn't have to be as cool and as hot as you are, but if he doesn't bite, he'll probably take the hint. But never, never ignore him just because he likes you and you don't reciprocate. Easy on the life lessons now. Go on doubles once he's mature enough to handle the fact that his friend has a better chance than he does. But when it comes to his friend, let it slide in.

On the Joey thing, my recommendation is, don't let on at all. Let him go out on a limb to tell you how he feels. Let him tell Kiko, too. Joey, the snake in the grass—let him hiss up to you. These guys will have to grow up to be men someday. Maybe now is not a bad time to start.

CALOY

The thing with Kiko, about "letting him down," would be easy to do, as long as you have never indicated or insinuated that you liked him back the same way that he likes you. I mean, if the two of you aren't really that close, you shouldn't (and I repeat, **shouldn't**) feel guilty in telling him that he cannot expect the two of you falling in love and hooking up with each other any time soon.

It's not your fault you're likable and attractive. And when you tell him about this, try not to dawdle and drag out the whole thing because I personally think that would be more painful for him.

About Joey, I agree with Caloy that you don't let him in on your feelings. Shy guys are cute—their shyness are, at least—but at a certain point, if they really like the girl, they should try to get a little bit braver and be up front about it. Let Joey become "braver" on his own so you would really be sure about his feelings for you.

As for choosing him over Kiko, think twice before doing that, my dear. Like you've said, you wouldn't want to be the cause of the (probable) downfall of their friendship. Don't choose until the two guys have settled this rivalry thing between themselves and you finally know who you really want to be with. After all, you're still 15 and there would be lot of Kikos and Joeys to meet.

But something smells fishy. If Joey is Kiko's best friend, then why does he seem to be going after you? Hmmm... interesting.

Well, I wish you good luck.

SEP

E-mail Caloy and Sep at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph